

Plane kills 8 on Manila highway

MANILA (AP) — A Philippine Airlines (PAL) jet with 98 people aboard crashed on a highway Friday, killing at least eight people, officials and witnesses said. Witnesses and officials at two hospitals and a clinic said all eight were killed on the ground. Most of them were in four vehicles crushed by the twin-engine BAC 1-11 when it crashed across Manila's south expressway at 3:23 p.m. (0723 GMT). Ninety-one people were injured, four of them in critical condition, airline officials said. Enrique Santos, PAL vice president for public relations, said he had no reports of deaths among the plane's passengers, but 85 of them and two crew members were injured. He said the four people in critical condition were injured on the ground. After overshooting the runway, the plane crashed through a concrete wall between the airport and the highway, bounced across the highway and plowed through railroad tracks on the other side of the 12-lane freeway, witnesses said. The plane's belly was ripped off but the fuselage remained largely intact. Officials closed the highway to facilitate the rescue, which was hampered by heavy rain and traffic jams on streets leading to the scene.

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State of Palestine is no threat — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has dismissed suggestions that an independent Palestinian state would be a threat to Jordan and said Israel used renewed extremism unless accepted a two-state solution to the Palestinian problem.

In an address to the European Atlantic Group in London Thursday, the King referred to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) acceptance of coexistence as a basis for independent states and said:

"The opportunity is there, but also has a political and psychological time-frame. It is not opened. It must be seized, nurtured and translated into a genuine peace process."

"Otherwise, forces of frustration and extremism will prevail once again."

King Hussein said Israel must take a "historic" decision to accept the two-state solution in the land of mandated Palestine. He told an audience of almost 30, including members of parliament from all parties, that the LO had met all the requirements to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Speaking in a House of Commons committee room, the King

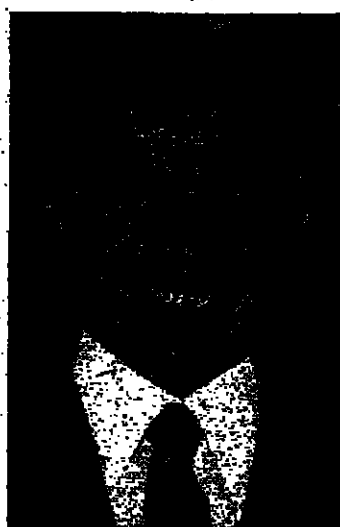
said the one remaining obstacle was Israel's inability to reach a decision on the future of the occupied territories.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal for elections in the occupied territories was carefully formulated so as to end the 19-month Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories without providing any tangible guarantees on subsequent progress toward a permanent peace settlement, he said.

"A peace process that does not lead to the full exercise of Palestinian national self-determination will only exchange one deadlock for another. And yet Israel persists in its rejection of moves towards a negotiated peace based on the concept of Palestinian self-determination alongside the state of Israel," he said.

"The Israeli claim that a Palestinian state would present a mortal threat to itself and Jordan is a sad manifestation of Israel's dilemma: unwilling to accept world consensus and fearing the isolation that would result from being the only nation to reject it," he said.

See page 4 for full text of the King's address.



HM King Hussein



Margaret Thatcher

King, Thatcher discuss Mideast

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday met with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and held talks on international and regional issues, including the Palestine problem.

The King said the talks touched on all matters of mutual interest, including the Middle East conflict. The King also expressed appreciation for Thatcher's interest in

Middle East issues as well as Jordanian-British relations.

King meets Sheikh Zayed

King Hussein also met with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayyan at his residence here. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Arab arena. Sheikh Zayed is on a state visit to the United Kingdom.

Paris Club reschedules part of Jordan's debts

ARIS (AP) — Representatives of Jordan's creditor governments have agreed to reschedule a major portion of the country's foreign debt, the French Finance Ministry said.

The ministry said in a statement Thursday that the 14 creditor governments have agreed to allow Jordan to spread repayments due on the debt over 10 years, including a five-year grace

period. It gave no details of the consolidation period, the amount involved, or whether or not the agreement covers interest as well as principal.

The agreement was reached at a meeting of the Paris Club, an informal group of government representatives that meets to examine debt-rescheduling requests from cash-strapped countries.

Taking part in the Paris Club

meeting were representatives from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Britain and the United States.

Jordan's total outstanding foreign debt is estimated at \$8 billion, including \$1.2 billion owed to commercial banks.

Finance Minister Basel Jar-

daneh has said Jordan hopes to reschedule a total of about \$650 million in loan payments due this year, although he did not say how much is due banks and how much due governments.

In addition to the Paris Club talks, Jordan earlier this month entered negotiations with its commercial creditors grouped together as the London Club.

Jaruzelski calls for all-party government

ARSAW (R) — General Wojciech Jaruzelski, in his first interview since becoming president of Poland, Friday urged Solidarity enter a Communist-led government but the opposition movement refused.

Its parliamentary leader Bronislaw Geremek instead proposed that Solidarity should form a government.

In an interview with the Communist Party daily Trybuna, Jaruzelski also revealed he is among hundreds of thousands of Poles deported to Siberia when Soviet troops invaded Poland in conjunction with Hitler's army at the start of World War II in 1939.

Jaruzelski repeated a call for Solidarity to enter a Communist-led government to help reverse Poland's economic decline and introduce democratic reforms.

"We are interested in the position participating in governing and co-responsibility," said two days after being elected president by the narrowest possible margin.

Geremek replied in an interview also published in Trybuna that it was impossible for a movement to enter a Communist-led "national unity" administration.

"But I am sure it is possible at a Solidarity government creates a situation of national unity... however, this is a completely different proposal and a completely different government," he said.

A political source said the issue whether the next government would be led by Solidarity or a Communist prime minister had not yet been decided by the Communists and their allies.

"The matter is still wide open," a source said.

Solidarity's parliamentary floor on Thursday failed to agree on a proposal from some of its leaders that it should form the next government and postponed the decision until next week.

On Monday Jaruzelski told the Solidarity caucus he was only able to offer it the post of first deputy prime minister responsible for the economy.

Georgian extremists raid police station

Siberian miners end strike

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Tens of thousands of Siberian coal miners ended a 10-day strike Friday but their leaders added a demand that local elections be moved up so they can try to oust unsympathetic officials.

Press reports said that although the agreement that ended the strike in western Siberia's Kuznetsk coal basin applied nationwide, miners remained off the job in several other areas.

Nearly two dozen workers and strike leaders interviewed at mines and meetings in Prokopyevsk described their settlement reached Tuesday with the government as a measured victory.

The 26-member strike committee met Friday with a half-dozen representatives to the national parliament, and called for municipal elections to be advanced from next spring to the first half of November.

With the exception of a call for greater control over their industry, the miners' demands had been almost purely economic.

Most of the municipal officials in Kuznetsk were reported to have supported the miners' strike, but strike leaders said they were not satisfied.

"They supported us, but not as actively as they should have," said Vyacheslav G. Akimov, a strike leader.

The last local elections in Kuznetsk were held two years ago — before Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms made elections more democratic by offering multiple candidates.

Strike committees in 13 Kuznetsk settlements voted on the agreement Wednesday. Some of the 150,000 strikers returned to work Thursday, and the rest went back at dawn Friday, miners' leaders and TASS, the official news agency, reported.

Soviet newspapers reported Friday strikes were continuing in the Donetsk coal basin of the Ukraine, the Pechora coal basin in the country's far north and the Karaganda coalfields of Soviet Central Asia. A Ukrainian dissident reported another strike in Chervonograd in the western Ukraine.

The government agreed to meet miners' demands for higher wages, increase deliveries of meat, sugar, soap, clothes and other consumer goods, to boost housing construction and — most important of all — to give the miners a greater voice in running their industry.

Ethnic violence. Ethnic extremists in a strife-torn region of Soviet Georgia attacked a police station and armed guards at several factories, seizing a large number of firearms, TASS reported Friday.

Forty-nine people were arrested Thursday night in the Black Sea resort area for curfew violations, and police confiscated more than 200 weapons, the agency said.

Special flights continued to evacuate thousands of tourists stranded in the region, where six days of clashes between Abkhazian and Georgian extremists have forced a halt to all road and rail traffic.

At least 18 people have been killed in the strife and 339 injured, including 30 police officers and seven internal security troops.

"In Kaspisky district, extremists attacked an Interior Ministry department and stole 30 confiscated hunting guns," TASS said.

"In the town of Samtredia, armed guards were attacked in a number of factories," the news agency said. "Military firearms, including automatic weapons, fell into the hands of extremists."

A spokesman for the Interior Ministry in Moscow said the situation in Abkhazia, 1,300 kilometers south of Moscow, and nearby regions remained tense.

Abkhazians are a minority in their homeland, a so-called autonomous republic inside the Republic of Georgia. Both Abkhazians and Georgians claim ethnic discrimination by the other.

ACC states to boost cooperation in regional, international scenes

By Suhair Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) have reached agreement on increased cooperation through a series of measures with particular focus on diplomatic and consular affairs among the four member states in the regional and international scenes.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who hosted a two-day meeting attended by Tareq Aziz of Iraq, Esmat Abdul Meguid of Egypt and Abdul Karim Iryani of North Yemen, told reporters Friday that the four adopted recommendations contained in a joint working paper.

Qasem said the ministers agreed to hold four meetings every year, with three of the gatherings coinciding with those of the higher committee which groups the heads of state and the committee of ACC prime ministers.

In addition, senior foreign ministry officials of the four countries will hold bi-annual meetings.

Endorsement was also made by the ministers of the means of communication and dialogue be-

tween the ministers and ministries concerning visits abroad, or visits by officials or ministers to their countries, in addition to other matters concerning the work of foreign ministries.

They also agreed upon unified group action when it is required and authorising one of the member countries to speak on behalf of the council on chosen occasions.

Measures to secure means of cooperation and coordination between the embassies and consular missions of the four countries were also taken during the meeting in addition to agreement on the alternation of memberships in international and regional organisations.

Aside from discussing plans and programmes to organise cooperation and coordination, the ministers reviewed major national issues and international issues.

The ministers discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian problem and Israel's attempts to frustrate Palestinian advances made through the new peace strategy adopted by the Palestine National Council and the Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation (PLO), Qasem said.

The ministers reaffirmed the position of the four ACC leaders at a summit held in Alexandria in June to support the uprising and their support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in their struggle to secure its legitimate rights.

The ministers welcomed the emerging trend in the international position which reflects increased support for Arab and Palestinian rights and paid tribute to declarations to that effect by the European Community and the Group of Seven industrialised countries.

The ministers expressed concern over the slow pace in efforts to reach a final peace agreement between Iran and Iraq after eight years of war which came to an end with a ceasefire last year. They called on the Iranian leadership to abandon what they described as procrastination and to respond positively to United Nations efforts to resume negotiations on implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 in its entirety.

They also stressed the importance of speeding up the exchange of prisoners of war (POWs), in accordance with international charters.

The ministers expressed concern



Marwan Al Qasem

over the Lebanese situation and reaffirmed support for efforts, the higher tripartite committee to solve the Lebanese problem.

On the Israeli plan to hold elections in the occupied land, Qasem said: "Jordan, as well as most of the Arab countries, have always believed that there is an Israeli attempt to procrastinate and avoid facing the need to

(Continued on page 3)

Chad, Libya bury rift

BAMAKO (R) — Chad and Libya were set to sign a peace accord to end more than 15 years of conflict over a disputed border area, official sources said Friday.

A provisional agreement was approved by foreign ministers on Friday morning and submitted to heads of state for signing at a two-day meeting in the Malian capital Bamako, they said.

Five African leaders, including Libya's Muammar Qadhafi and Chad's Hissene Habre, were expected to announce the accord at the close of the meeting late Friday.

"The heads of state will perhaps make a few minor amendments but there will definitely be a Bamako declaration on Friday," one source close to the talks said. "It will be more than an agreement in principle."

Qadhafi arrived in Bamako Thursday with an entourage of about 800 on four planes. After overnight talks, he emerged from his first meeting with Habre smiling hand-in-hand.

It was a diplomatic triumph for the outgoing Organisation of African Unity (OAU) chairman, Moussa Traore of Mali.

"The fact that Habre and Qadhafi met is an immense political success," one delegation member said.

The peace accord is expected to be the first step in reconciling Chad and Libya, at war since 1973 over the supposedly mineral-rich Aouzou Strip.

"They have agreed now to a friendship treaty and take a number of commitments on a wide range of subjects, including Aouzou," one source said.

"The Aouzou question might eventually be settled by the International Court of Justice (in the Hague)," he said.

Palestinians endorse re-opening of W. Bank schools

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian nationalists and Muslim fundamentalists urged Arab pupils Friday to return to their studies peacefully when Israel allows primary schools in the occupied West Bank to reopen Saturday.

About 200,000 Palestinian children in elementary schools and the final year of high school were due to return to classes, closed by military order during most of the 19-month uprising in occupied territories.

In a leaflet distributed Friday, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, which had set a general strike for Saturday, specifically exempted the schools.

"We are calling on all students and teachers to go on Saturday, June 22, to the schools, to study in them in an orderly way and keep classes going steadily without problems."

"This does not contradict the full strike we have called in the last leaflet that includes workers, public transport and shops," the leaflet said.

Khalil Mahshi, a senior Palestinian educator, and leading Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) supporter Faisal Hussein called publicly for a peaceful resumption of education, demanding that Israeli troops stay away from schools to avoid provocations.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, under strong U.S. pressure, decided last week to reopen 1,000 West Bank schools even though he failed to get formal assurances from nationalist leaders that pupils would not hold anti-Israeli protests.

Mahshi told Reuters Friday that the underground leaders of the uprising should in their next communique urge pupils to concentrate on their studies.

"If the unified leadership says schools are to work seriously and children are to observe studies during school hours, this will make the difference. If they reflect the attitude of the community, this is what they will do."

Children in grades one through six and in their senior year in high school will go back to classrooms Saturday, the army announced.

No date has been set for a resump-

tion of classes for the remaining 100,000 students, and the army said it would depend on whether the initial phase was peaceful.

Palestinians said that Israeli officials had tried to get signed statements from principals guaranteeing there would be no anti-Israeli protests at schools.

Yacoub Kumsieh, director of Lutheran schools in the West Bank, said he and other educators told the Israelis "nobody can give such a promise."

Schools in the West Bank were closed by the army shortly after the start of the uprising in December 1987, although classes have continued for more than 150,000 students in the occupied Gaza Strip. More than half of the Gaza children attend United Nations schools.

West Bank elementary and secondary schools previously were reopened for two brief intervals, once in mid-1988 and most recently in late December and early January.

Colleges, universities and vocational schools in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip remain shut, keeping 20,000 students out of classes. The army has announced no plans for reopening them.

Shamir said pushing election plan despite Likud constraints

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met twice this week with Palestinians in the occupied territories to promote his election plan, a spokesman said Friday.

Shamir rival Ariel Sharon, the trade minister, boasted he had blocked Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) approval of the plan.

The opposing stands on the Israeli plan for elections among Palestinians came as a feud deepened between Shamir and Sharon, who has been challeng-

ing the prime minister in his own right-wing Likud bloc.

But Shamir spokesman Yossi Ahimeir denied newspaper reports that the prime minister intended to dismiss Sharon from the government at a cabinet meeting Sunday.

"If Sharon continues his divisive ways and causes problems in the Likud, it may be possible that there will be no choice but to fire him," Ahimeir said. "But now it is not practical."

Ahimeir confirmed Israeli

news reports that the prime minister has met twice this week with leading Palestinian figures to discuss his election plan, but gave no details on the meetings or the Palestinian participants.

Sharon, who two weeks ago succeeded in having the Likud impose limits on the election plan, was quoted in the Yediot newspaper Friday as saying his move blocked expected PLO acceptance of the elections. A Sharon spokesman confirmed the remarks.

Tail engine faulted for DC-10 crash

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (Agencies) — United Airlines Flight 232 pilot had almost no control as he struggled to land a DC-10 that had lost an engine fan and sustained holes in the small wing of the tail, investigators said.

The Jumbo jet's hydraulic system, which is routed through the tail and allows the pilot to manipulate wing and tail control, contained no fluid as Captain Al C. Haynes tried to bring the plane into Sioux Gateway airport, according to National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) officials.

"The aircraft could only be turned to the right. They made three 360-degree turns" before Wednesday's crash landing, NTSB member Jim Burnett said.

While officials would not

draw conclusions as to the cause of the crash, the signs appeared to point to the blown rear, or number two, engine. The plane had three engines.

Burnett said the rear engine "has a whole fan section missing, including the fan, the disc and part of the rotor." The fan helps create jet engine thrust. He added: "This is the first time we've ever seen this."

Officials said Haynes struggled desperately for 42 minutes to keep his plane in the air after the rear engine suddenly lost power and cut hydraulic cables that control the Jumbo jet's wing and tail flaps.

Burnett said that as many as 186 people survived, leaving 109 possible dead. He said 54 survivors were in hospital.

The death toll changed

slightly as investigators recovered human remains and examined wreckage from the crash. They were due to talk to Haynes and his three-man crew, all in hospital in intensive care, later Friday.

Earlier, United had reported 183 survivors and government safety officials had said 110 people died.

The number of people aboard the flight quoted by Burnett was two more than previous counts and included a fourth pilot riding in the cockpit's jumpseat.

Burnett said the wreckage showed many perforations in the tail section. Cables carrying hydraulic fluid had been severed and no hydraulic fluid remained in the plane's wreckage, he said.

Losing the hydraulic system

cripples the pilot's ability to control altitude, direction and the jet's landing gear.

Burnett, who said conclusions about the crash would not be released until the investigation and interviews were completed, said the engine's maintenance record found a problem with its pneumatic system the day before the flight.

The plane's flight recorder, the "black box" that records voice and instrument communications, was intact and under study in Washington, Burnett said.

Rescuers resumed their search for victims Friday among the wreckage.

They were concentrating on a large, blackened section of fuselage lying in the cornfield alongside the scorched runway.

مكتبة الأمل

Senate thwarts move to curb U.S.-PLO dialogue

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate responded to an appeal from President George Bush Thursday and brushed aside attempts to sharply curtail the U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Senate first voted, 75-23, to shelve an amendment offered by Senator Jesse Helms, which would have halted the U.S.-PLO talks unless the president could certify that the PLO diplomats present for such discussions had no links to "terrorist" activities in which Americans were killed, injured or kidnapped.

It then adopted, 97-1, a compromise offered by the chamber's bipartisan leadership which would stop the dialogue only if the president knew that one of the PLO negotiators was a direct participant in an act of "terrorism" and only if Bush chose to advise Congress.

Helms, who was the only senator to vote "no," called that "nothing but a fig leaf to permit the Senate Department to continue to do what they've been doing."

"There's no requirement what-

soever that the president actually advise Congress," Helms said. "It is totally illogical to propose that the president cut off his own funds by advising Congress. Forgive me, dear colleagues, this doesn't even make good sense."

Senate majority leader George Mitchell of Maine called the compromise "far less offensive" than the Helms amendment, which Bush had said would hamper or end the U.S. role in the Middle East peace process and unconstitutional on his ability to make U.S. foreign policy.

"It is my understanding that if the president knows of such facts he will advise the Congress," Mitchell said, adding that he has a commitment from the White House on that score.

"It is my expectation that the president would comply with the law as written," Mitchell said. "It does put restrictions on meeting with terrorists."

In a letter to Mitchell Thursday, the president said the United States and Israel would be the big losers if the Senate barred U.S. contacts with PLO officials.

He said adoption of the ban "would interfere significantly with, if not destroy" U.S. ability to promote peace in the Middle East.

After six months of talks between U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and PLO officials in Tunisia, the discussions are at a "promising diplomatic juncture," Bush wrote. "This is not the time to take away from the executive a key tool of our diplomacy."

Pelletreau is the designated U.S. contact with the PLO in the talks.

The White House said Thursday Bush had exchanged letters with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and reemphasized the U.S. desire to "continue the peace process."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Bush's letter, sent before the president went to Europe July 9, strongly endorsed Secretary of State James Baker's statements on the Middle East peace process.

Baker has urged Israel to accept territorial compromise and to stop further Jewish settlements

in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Fitzwater confirmed that Bush had written Shamir and "reemphasized our general position and our desire to continue the peace process."

He said Bush received a reply from Shamir, but he refused to characterize it.

Baker, in a May 22 speech, cautioned Israel that "the United States does not support annexation or permanent Israeli control of the West Bank and Gaza." It also opposes "the creation of an independent Palestinian state."

Asked if the Bush letter was a defence of Baker, Fitzwater said the U.S. position "was well-presented by Secretary Baker in all of his public discussions."

"We think Secretary Baker's many discussions on this issue have been in the interest of the peace process. We have welcomed the elections proposal of Prime Minister Shamir as a concept that could lead to broader peace efforts and we would like to see that process move forward," Fitzwater said.

The United States sought clarification from Israel about her arrest and a consular delegation visited her in detention, U.S. embassy spokesman Don Coffman said.

"We were in touch with the government at many levels and we're happy she's out," he said.

Israelis punish mother for 3-year-old's 'V'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops detained a Palestinian-American woman after his three-year-old daughter flashed a "V-for-Victory" sign at an army patrol, according to the Jerusalem Post.

An army spokesman said Nawja Bajjes Salem, 27, was released Thursday after spending three days in custody.

The spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with army rules, denied allegations that Salem was detained after her daughter waved a "V" sign.

"This is definitely not true," he said, adding that Salem was detained for "incitement" after an

incident in her West Bank home village of Beitin, but gave no details.

The Post reported Salem was to be remanded until August 3, and Arab reporters said the army agreed to her early release after a request from the U.S. consulate.

Palestinian youth who battle Israeli troops in the occupied territories often wave a "V" sign and chant slogans as army patrols pass by.

The Jerusalem Post reported that Salem, who spends several months a year in Beitin and lives in Milwaukee, was walking in the village with her three-year-old daughter and six-month-old son when an army jeep passed by.

A soldier jumped out of the jeep and grabbed Salem, saying that her daughter flashed a "V" at the troops, the newspaper reported.

The soldiers put Salem in the jeep and left her children with a friend of the woman, the post reported.

She was taken for questioning at a police compound, where she remained until her release, it said.

Salem returned to her father-in-law's house in Beitin, a village near Ramallah, after charges against her were dropped.

Salem and her lawyer, Ibrahim Alayan, said they believed she

was released because of pressure from U.S. officials. Police had told her she would be detained until Aug. 3.

"If I didn't have an American passport, I was going to spend a lot of days in jail ... I feel sorry for the ladies inside the jail who don't have American passports," she said.

The United States sought clarification from Israel about her arrest and a consular delegation visited her in detention, U.S. embassy spokesman Don Coffman said.

"We were in touch with the government at many levels and we're happy she's out," he said.

PLO cool to death threats against leaders

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is playing down Israeli death threats to its leaders, saying it has no evidence that Israel or any other of its enemies planned assassinations.

Salah Khalaf, a top leader who has close links with the PLO's security apparatus, told Reuters the PLO was constantly on guard against threats from Israeli intelligence.

The pattern of Israeli activity had not changed, however, since Israeli Trade Minister Ariel Sharon Monday urged the government to eliminate PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, he said.

"We often receive reports that they're planning to divert Arafat's plane, or plant car bombs or

carry out an Abu Jihad-style operation, not in any particular place ... but our impression is they're still waiting for the moment," he told Reuters Thursday.

Abu Jihad, the PLO's military chief, was assassinated in his house in the suburbs of Tunis in April 1988 in what was widely believed to be an operation by Israeli agents.

PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said he doubted the credibility of reports in Europe that groups sheltered by Iran were planning to kill Arafat and other PLO figures.

"I haven't heard of plots or even reports of plots. It's probably lies and wild rumours," he said.

A U.S. television network said Wednesday that radical Palestinian guerrilla leader Ahmad Jibril had accepted a \$122-million contract to kill Arafat.

Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, broke with Arafat in 1983 and is now one of his bitterest opponents.

Bassam Abu Sharif, an Arafat aide known for his outspoken comments, told Reuters in London he knew the names of specific Israeli army officers involved in plots to kill Arafat.

But PLO sources said they had not taken exceptional security measures since Sharon's threat.

The organisation was already more concerned than usual for Arafat's security after Israel

showed it was tracking the movements of his plane on a tour through the Far East.

Israel Radio was the first news organisation to report that Arafat had disappeared between Pyongyang and Hanoi earlier this month. It later turned out that he had to stay the night in Peking because of flight clearance problems.

Khalaf, who is Arafat's deputy in the mainstream Fatah movement of the PLO, said the PLO was amazed at the lack of international reaction to Sharon's threats.

"There's been very little condemnation of Sharon and what there is has been half-hearted," he said.

Assassinated Kurdish leader buried in Paris

PARIS (AP) — Hundreds of mourners clad in black marched in silent procession Thursday behind the body of Kurdish leader Abdul Rahman Qassemloo, slain a week ago in what his Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) has called an Iranian plot.

French government ministers joined women, children and Peshmergas, Kurdish fighters, in the march from Place de la Republique to the grave site at Pere Lachaise cemetery, in eastern Paris.

"The French government... presents its condolences," said Bernard Kouchner, minister for humanitarian action. "Qassemloo wanted to make peace in the name of the Kurds," he said in reference to the Kurdish struggle

for autonomy. "These were fear of his message of peace, so he was executed."

Qassemloo, 59, educated in Prague and Paris and head of the KDP since 1973, was assassinated July 13 in a Vienna apartment along with two other Kurds in the midst of a meeting with an Iranian delegation.

He was buried alongside fellow leader Abdullah Ghaderi.

Officials of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran have accused Tehran of luring Qassemloo to his death with the promise of an accord between the longtime enemies. Iran and Iraq, where the KDP is headquartered, have accused each other of the killings.

"He was a great democrat," Kouchner told the Associated

Press. "If the Kurdish cause was not a fashionable one, it was because Qassemloo never hijacked airplanes, took hostages or assassinated his enemies."

French Education Minister Lionel Jospin joined the mourners, estimated by police to number about 1,000, in their procession.

Qassemloo's wife Helene, and two daughters, their arms linked, headed the procession, which followed a barge draped with flowers. Many mourners carried huge portraits of the assassinated leader, others draped pictures across their backs and fronts.

The silence was broken only by occasional chanting of the Kurdish anthem and impassioned cries of "Vive les Kurds."

Kouchner said the French government would open its doors to 300 Kurdish refugees in the coming two weeks.

There are 20 million Kurds in Iran, Iraq and Turkey, with enclaves in the Soviet Union and Syria. About eight-million Kurds live in Iran.

"We hope it will be an act followed by other European countries," he said, adding that France has sent medical teams to various Kurdish villages for the past 15 years.

Thomas Hammerberg, a former head of Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation, also paid tribute to the slain leader, calling him "a father figure to us all."



Sudanese demonstrate in support of the new regime

Sudan's military rulers cut curfew

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military rulers have shortened by one hour the nightly curfew imposed after a June 30 coup toppled Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's civilian government.

State Radio Omdurman quoted an official statement as saying the curfew would now run from 10 p.m. (2000 GMT) to 4.30 a.m. (0230 GMT), instead of from 9 p.m. as before.

A senior Sudanese official is touring Arab Gulf states to explain the motives and goals of the coup in Khartoum.

Deputy Chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary

Command Council Brigadier Zubair Mohammad Saleh handed a message to the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, from military leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

The Qatari News Agency said the message "explains circumstances and political motives which led to the coup and the goals Sudan is seeking to achieve" as well as boosting bilateral cooperation.

The Sudanese envoy was expected to fly to Bahrain from Doha.

Kabul pardons American journalist

KABUL (R) — The Afghan government freed American journalist Tony O'Brien from jail Friday, six weeks after he was captured by security forces.

O'Brien, who entered Afghanistan illegally with anti-government guerrillas, was handed over to a U.S. consular official at the Foreign Ministry.

"I just want to talk on the street," he told reporters. "There were times in jail, he said, when he nearly lost hope of an early release."

Told he was being freed just one hour before being handed over, he said: "I just threw my hands into the air and thanked the high Gods."

The Afghan government had already announced that President Najibullah had pardoned O'Brien, who was on assignment for Life magazine. He is expected to fly to New Delhi Saturday.

Afghan consular chief Hamoon Askari said interrogation of the 43-year-old photographer was not a subversive.

Remy Travers Smith, a U.S. consular official from New Delhi, told Afghan officials: "It is not the policy of the United States that journalists should travel without visas but ... Tony O'Brien did not mean any harm to Afghanistan."

O'Brien, a freelance photographer from Santa Fe, New Mexico, was captured at a house in Kabul June 8 after having crossed the border from Pakistan with Mujahideen fighters.

O'Brien said his captors had treated him reasonably well.

O'Brien was the first American journalist captured with the rebels inside Afghanistan during a decade of war.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Fateh congress postponed

TUNIS (R) — Fateh, the largest group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has postponed until next month a general congress to make a thorough review of the movement's strategy, Fateh officials said Thursday. The congress, the first since 1980, will now meet in Tunis in the first week of August, they said. The meeting was originally set to open July 28. It will elect new leaders to replace the five Central Committee members who have defected or been assassinated since the last congress in Damascus in 1980. Salah Khalaf, deputy in Fateh to Chairman Yasser Arafat, told Reuters in a recent interview the congress would go over all the political steps taken by the PLO since the start of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Algeria adopts landmark election law

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's National Assembly has adopted a landmark electoral law that paves the way for the first multi-party elections since independence in 1962. The law is part of Algeria's transition from a one-party socialist state to a multi-party democracy, launched after riots over deteriorating economic conditions last October. Algeria's official media said the National Assembly adopted the law Wednesday night after making 60 amendments to a draft presented by Interior Minister Aboubakar Belkaid. "You have placed a new stone in the edifice of democracy, deepening its practice in the field," Belkaid told the assembly after the vote. A law passed earlier this month allows the formation of new political parties to compete with the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), which led an eight-year war of liberation against the French. More than 20 parties have been formed ranging from far-left Trotskyists to Islamic fundamentalists and movements seeking greater recognition for the country's non-Arab Berber culture. They are expected to contest local elections late this year or early next year, officials say.

Body of late Iraqi minister moved

NICOSIA (AP) — The body of former Iraqi Defence Minister Adnan Khairallah, killed in a helicopter crash in May, was moved from his hometown cemetery Thursday to a special grave near the Martyr's Monument in Baghdad, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. The report, monitored in Nicosia, said the hearse carrying the

body was accompanied by an official procession led by President Saddam Hussein and other officials from the government and the ruling Baath Party. The agency said the president put a wreath on Khairallah's grave as the army band played a funeral dirge and cannons fired off a final salute. "The president later placed another bunch of flowers from the garden around the Martyr's Monument and put them on the grave," INA said. Khairallah, who had been the deputy commander of the armed forces, was appointed defence minister in 1979 and held the post through the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. He was considered the second most powerful man after the president, to whom he was both a cousin and brother-in-law. Khairallah's helicopter crashed in northern Iraq on May 6, after its two pilots lost control in a sandstorm.

U.S. announces helicopter sale to Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defence Department informed Congress Thursday that it would sell Israel four OH-58D observation helicopters with spare parts and support equipment for an estimated cost of \$39 million. The helicopters will give the Israeli air force the capability "to detect, locate and observe potential hostile activities," the statement said. The Pentagon said the sale contributes to the national security of the United States by improving "the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East."

British aide to visit ethnic Turks

ISTANBUL (R) — A British Foreign Office representative will tour refugee camps next week housing ethnic Turks from Bulgaria, British diplomats said Friday. Lynda Chalker, minister of state at the Foreign Office, will be the most senior foreign official to visit the border crossing at Kapikule and nearby refugee camps. Britain has asked Bulgaria to respect its Turkish minority and to make humane arrangements for their departure, they said. More than 172,000 ethnic Turks have arrived in Turkey since early June, fleeing what they said was a forced assimilation campaign. Bulgaria says they are tourists. Chalker will hold talks with Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Bozer and Istanbul Mayor Nurettin Sozen during her four-day official visit to Ankara and Istanbul starting Sunday.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
17:00	Side Kicks
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary
18:05	Message from Iraq
18:20	A play by Shakespeare
19:10	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Consumer's Guide
22:25	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:10	Coultures
19:00	News in French
19:15	A play by Shakespeare
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Natural Phenomena
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Joint Account
21:10	Saturday Variety Show
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "The Policeman"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:57	Fajr
05:59	Dhuhr (Summer) Dhuhr
12:02	Dhuhr
16:23	Asr
19:45	Maghrib

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman	Min./max. temp.	ZARQA:
Amman	15/30	Dr. Yousef 'Awad
Agbla	22/36	Khalaf pharmacy
Jericho	18/35	994676
Jordan Valley	22/36	985417
EMERGENCIES		
Civil Defence Department 661111		
Civil Defence Immediate		
Rescue 630441		
Civil Defence Emergency 199		
Water and Sewerage 661111		
Fire Brigade 661111		
Blood Bank 775121		
Highway Police 843402		
Traffic Police 894390		
Public Security Department 630441		
Hotel Complaints 605800		
Price Complaints 661111		
Water and Sewerage 661111		
Complaints 897467		
Amman Municipality 787111		
Complaints 623101		
Telephone Information 121		
(directory assistance) 630441		
Overseas Calls 630441		
Central Amman Telephone 630441		
Repairs 661111		
Abdullah Telephone Repair 661111		
Jordan Television 773111		
Radio Jordan 661111		
Water Authority 661111		
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615		

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	81313/32
Khalaf Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Al-Khalaf Maternity, J. Amn.	642816
Jabal Amman Maternity	642816
Mahdi, J. Amman	636140
Palestine Specialist	661171/4
Shamsi Hospital	661171
University Hospital	643945
Al-Masri Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	665127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	641646
Italian, Al-Mudairra	77191/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	771112/6
Army, Marks	891617/15
Queen Alia Hospital	662240/50
Amal Hospital	674135
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Rua Sina Hospital	(09)986732
ERBIL:	
Princess Sumaya Hospital	(02)775555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)772775
Rua Al-Nahla Hospital	(02)747100

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
16:45	New York, Montreal (RJ)
17:00	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:15	Cairo (RJ)
18:15	Athens (RJ)
19:00	Istanbul (add.) (RJ)
19:30	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
20:00	Tripoli (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 1)	
13:00	Baghdad (JA)
13:30	Cairo (RJ)
14:00	Kuwait (RJ)
15:00	Tripoli (RJ)
17:00	Riyadh (RJ)
17:30	Rome (RJ)
22:45	Frankfurt, Düsseldorf (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Jeddah (add.) (RJ)
08:00	Agaba (RJ)
11:00	Tripoli (RJ)
12:00	Athens (RJ)
12:15	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30	Baghdad (RJ)
13:00	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00	London (RJ)
13:15	Paris (RJ)
13:30	Frankfurt, Bremen (RJ)
14:00	Cairo (RJ)
14:00	Istanbul (add.) (RJ)
14:30	Dubai (RJ)
15:00	Kuwait (RJ)
15:30	Baghdad (RJ)
16:00	Baghdad (RJ)
16:30	Baghdad (RJ)
17:00	Cairo (RJ)

MARKET PRICES	
Upptower price in file per kg.	
Apple (golden)	260 / 260
Apple (Kashan)	280 / 280
Apple (shahin)	300 / 380
Apple (Mukhammad)	400 / 350
Apple (Mukhammad)	350 / 300
Apple	250 / 210
Orange	70 / 40
Watermelon	150 / 100
Watermelon	140 / 120
Watermelon	150 / 110
Watermelon	180 / 120
Watermelon	140 / 100
Watermelon	70 / 50
Watermelon	260 / 200
Watermelon (red)	200 / 160
Watermelon (yellow)	600 / 500
Watermelon (green)	320 / 260
Watermelon	220 / 200
Watermelon	270 / 220
Watermelon	360 / 300
Watermelon (big)	150 / 100
Watermelon	140 / 100
Watermelon	130 / 120
Watermelon	280 / 200

Jerash Festival ends

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The eighth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts, which ended Thursday night, drew to a close Jordan's most star-studded and variety-rich cultural event of the year.

An impressive, well-attended (2000+) Japanese Sochika show kicked off the 16-day event with a successful start. It was Japan's first participation at Jerash. Rabee Al Khooli, a popular Lebanese singer attracted an estimated 4,500 fans to his one night performance at the South Theatre. The Ballet Du Nord from France, drew an estimated 4,000 people to its two performances and labelled the whistling Jordanian audience as "fun."

The Linkoping University Choir drew an unexpectedly large audience and proved that an extensive advertising campaign can lure a Jordanian audience to a cultural event with which it was almost certainly unfamiliar. All those Jordanians who were asked about the Swedish performance thought it was "excellent."

Another Lebanese singer, Walid Twifig, drew an estimated 8,000 people to the South Theatre on the two days in which he performed there.

The Argentinian tango group also received a favourable reception, "considering that this is the first time a tango group comes to Jordan," according to Jerash organisers. The group played, danced and sang for almost 2,000 people during their two performances.

The Leningrad Ballet was attended by an estimated 5,000 people despite a major last minute programme change which drastically altered the foreseen performance.

The United States' official representative at the festival, the Dimension Dance Theatre which combined African and American traditional dances, gave three superb performances. The group performed for a sometimes confused audience of approximately 2,000 people on three nights. One spectator said, "I don't think the audience could always follow what was happening. The Jordanian audience is not very familiar with contemporary dancing. I felt the audience could get more 'into' the African dances. Nobody explained the more contemporary dances, in correlation to the African-American slave experience to the viewers, maybe it would have been useful to have an introduction in Arabic as to what some of the more abstract performances were about."

There were some unpleasant surprises at Jerash as well. The Al Darawesh Dance group from Egypt did not show up on the first night of its performance.

After receiving critical reviews from the Arabic press the play Salome forgot one of its actresses at the hotel in Amman on the night of their second performance. Needless to say the performance ended after fifteen minutes and an angry audience left the theatre.

And the wardrobe of the Leningrad Ballet was sent to Belgrade instead of Amman which promoted the company's director to cancel half of the foreseen programme.

But it was the final performance of Moroccan singer Samira Said, on Wednesday and Thursday night that seemed to be the most controversial of the events at Jerash. While Jerash Festival Director Akram Masarweh insisted that there could not have been more than "a maximum number of 4,500 people in the South Theatre," members of the audience made estimates from 6,000 to 10,000. The discrepancy between 4,500 and 10,000 is clear, but assuming the number lies somewhere in between, some observers believe that is still far from appropriate for a theatre which is equipped to seat 3,500.

While some viewers complained that it was "too crowded, the audience trampled, pushed and kicked everyone, Samira's voice was weak and she looked bad and she didn't even sing the song about Jerusalem." One observer said: "There must have been a hundred and fifty people sitting on the electric wires on the stage and just beneath it. I kept on thinking there's going to be an electric short and those people are 'going to go' right in front of me, I felt it was irresponsible to have all these people on the stage and in the theatre."

Another said "it was so much fun, there was pushing and shoving and everyone was clapping and singing, crowds are fun, the concert was great, Samira looked beautiful, and I had the time of my life. I definitely am going to come to Jerash again next year."

Whether they enjoyed it or not is a question that only the audience can answer but Samira Said's voice along with the sound of enthusiastic clapping of thousands of her fans brought the eighth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts to a vibrant end.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

REGENT CONGRATULATES POLAND: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday cabled congratulations to Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski on Poland's National Day anniversary. In his cable, Prince Hassan wished the Polish President good health and the people further progress and prosperity. The Regent also sent a cable of congratulations to Jaruzelski upon his reelection as Poland's president. In his cable the Regent wished the president continued progress and development for Poland under his leadership, and praised the strong ties that exist between Jordan and Poland. (Petra)

CONGRATULATIONS TO BELGIUM: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday sent a cable of good wishes to King Baudouin of Belgium on his country's National Day wishing him continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity to the Belgian people. (Petra)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING: Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour Thursday chaired a meeting of his ministry's education committee which reviewed two working papers on education in Irbid and Zarqa. The papers dealt specifically with private education and vocational training in the two governorates. (Petra)

2 DENTAL CLINICS OPEN IN MAFAQ: Two dental clinics in Mafaq opened Thursday and started providing services to the local population. A health department spokesman in Mafaq said that the two clinics are provided with the most up to date equipment and highly qualified staff. (Petra)

JD 16,950 FOR CHARITABLE SOCIETIES: The executive council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has allocated JD 16,950 to support the work of various charitable societies. A GUVS spokesman said that out of the sum JD 5,000 will help the Ministry of Education's programmes to eradicate illiteracy in the Kingdom. (Petra)

ACC HEALTH MINISTERS TO MEET: Ministers of Health in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) are due to hold a meeting in Baghdad on July 29. Iraqi Minister of Health Abdul Salam Saad said that the four ministers will discuss an ACC health strategy in general and means of protecting the environment in particular. He said that plans for spreading health education and producing, distributing and marketing pharmaceuticals will also be at the top of the priorities. (Petra)

EMPLOYMENT OFFICE: An official at the Ministry of Labour has urged owners of businesses and institutions who have vacant posts to contact the recently established employment office at the General Federation of Trade Unions in Shmeisani to provide jobs for unemployed Jordanians. The source also urged the unemployed to check with this office to register their names, jobs, and addresses so that the available job opportunities can be matched with the list.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ An art exhibition by three Arab artists representing Bahrain, Syria and Jordan at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.



Jordan remembers the late King Abdullah

AMMAN — Jordan Thursday marked the 38th anniversary of the death of King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, who fell martyr while performing prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in 1951. On the occasion, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent and other members of the royal family visited the tomb of the late King where they recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid wreaths

on the tomb. The tomb of the late King was also visited by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, cabinet members, senior officials and high ranking army officers. The commander of the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Battalion delivered a speech paying tribute to the late King's endeavours to unify the ranks of the Arab nation and to uphold and carry out the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt (Petra photo)



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Thursday receives the four ACC foreign ministers at the Prime Ministry (Petra photo)

Sharif Zaid reaffirms Jordan's commitment to ACC charter

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker has reaffirmed Jordan's total commitment to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) charter and pledged implementation of all its resolutions.

Speaking at a meeting here Thursday with the foreign ministers of Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt, Sharif Zaid said that Jordan was keen on promot-

ing the ACC's activities and help fulfil the ACC's objectives for which it was established and serve the pan-Arab causes.

The foreign ministers — Marwan Al Qasem of Jordan, Tarek Aziz of Iraq, Ismat Abdul Majid of Egypt and Abdul Karim Al Iryani of North Yemen — briefed the prime minister on the outcome of their meetings which ended in Amman Thursday and

the various resolutions adopted to help promote coordination among the four countries in diplomatic and foreign affairs.

The prime minister discussed with the ministers current world affairs, the representation of the ACC countries at international conferences, developments in the Middle East and questions related to enhancing pan-Arab solidarity.

Awqaf Ministry to note all negative, positive aspects related to pilgrimage



Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat

AMMAN (Petra) — Pilgrimage has been accomplished with great ease because the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs committed companies in charge of transporting pilgrims to dispatch additional buses to be used in emergency cases and the housing facilities were good and cheap.

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat said Friday.

He told Jordan News Agency, Petra, upon his return from Saudi Arabia after supervising the pil-

grimage process that hot weather conditions and the huge crowds of pilgrims might have caused exhaustion. He added that all necessary facilities were provided to pilgrims and special guides gave Islamic guidance to pilgrims on regular bases.

Khayyat concluded by saying that the ministry will take into consideration all negative and positive aspects related to the pilgrimage season so that all the negative aspects are avoided in the pilgrimage season next year.



Asian soccer tournament

AMMAN — Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat Thursday deputised for His Majesty King Hussein in opening the semi-final championship for the ninth Asian Soccer Tournament at the King Hussein Sports City. Taking part in the tournament are soccer clubs from Iraq, Qatar, Lebanon and North Yemen in addition to Jordan. Al Duffatani soccer club of Amman, which organised the tournament, played the first match against the North Yemeni team beating the North Yemenis 2:0. The match was attended by around 15,000 spectators. Before the match started the participating teams paraded in the stadium before the spectators. (Petra photo)

Ministry announces Tawjihi results

63.97% of students pass in exams

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education Friday announced the general results of the Tawjihi (General Certificate of Secondary School Examinations) for the 1988-1989 scholastic year taken by 58,618 male and female students in various streams.

The results were announced at a press conference by the ministry's Director of the Examinations Department, Mr. Ahmad Taqi, who said that of the total number of students taking the examination in the past month there were 41,355 regular school students while the rest had had private studies before sitting for the examinations.

According to Taqi, some of the students were absent from the examinations and only 40,924 of the regular students sat for the tests which were set by the Ministry of Education for students in various provinces.

He said that of these 26,180 only were successful, and therefore the percentage of the successful students is 63.97.

Of a total of 20,003 regular students in the literary stream only 12,441, passed, and the average of successful students will thus be 62.9 per cent.

Of the 13,733 registered regu-

lar students in the scientific stream, 9,433 passed, and the average is 69.9 per cent.

Of the 4,581 regular students in the commercial stream, 2,484 have passed, and the average of success is 54.5 per cent.

Of the 163 regular students in the agricultural stream, 123 have passed, and the average of success is thus 75.4 per cent.

Of the 2,375 regular students in the industrial stream, 1,311 have passed, and the average of success is 55.3 per cent.

Of the 399 regular students in the nursing stream, 316 have passed and the average of success is therefore 79.2 per cent.

Of the 101 regular students in the hotel management stream, 72 have passed. The average of success is thus 71.3 per cent.

Taqi thanked the teachers and the supervisors who were involved in marking the students' papers and compiling the final results.

He said that students who failed in a number of subjects can get their results from their schools four days from now.

Earlier this month the Ministry of Education announced that students who failed the Tawjihi examination or part of it can sit again for the following year's Tawjihi examinations.

The announcement was made by Minister of Education Abdullah Nsour who said that students can either sit for those subjects in which they failed, or even sit for all the subjects with the purpose of improving their results so as to stand a better chance for higher education.

The minister said that this measure will be in effect as of the 1988-1989 scholastic year, which means that it applies to the students who just received their results.

Meanwhile, the Public Security Department (PSD) urged students, their parents and relatives to refrain from violating laws and regulations concerning firing a part of their celebrations for success in the Tawjihi examinations.

A statement said that firing during all kinds of celebrations is totally prohibited in the country, and is punishable by law.

Directors of farm cooperatives in ACC states begin meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — A working paper presented by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) was reviewed by heads of farm cooperatives in the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries who opened a three day meeting in Amman Thursday.

The working paper, which revolved around coordination and cooperation among farm cooperatives in the four countries — Jordan, Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq — called for the formation of a higher committee to meet periodically and to achieve that goal.

The Jordanian paper outlined various pan-Arab and international areas where cooperation and coordination can be achieved, and emphasised the importance of joint action among Arab cooperatives in general and

farm cooperatives in particular.

According to a JCO spokesman, the working paper contained ideas about joint ACC plans for producing and marketing agricultural crops, achieving greater measure of coordination in implementing cooperative projects, such as pasture lands and developing livestock wealth in the four ACC countries, producing improved seeds, helping the four countries to exchange agricultural crops freely as well as exchange expertise and information pertaining to agriculture.

In an address to the opening session, JOC Director General Mreiwed Al Tal underlined the significance of the meeting which he said was a translation of resolutions adopted by the leaders of the ACC group and aims to achieve integration among the four countries in all fields.

"Jordan believes in the world of cooperatives which seek to enhance links among farmers and people in the four Arab states," the JCO director added.

The heads of cooperatives later made a tour of the Jordan Cooperatives Bank, the Cooperatives Institute and a project designed to bolster coordination among cooperative organisations.

They were briefed by officials on cooperative banking, training programmes and general activities by the agricultural cooperatives.

The three-day meeting will examine working papers from the four ACC countries; and the participants will make other visits to various projects, to be oriented on the Kingdom's cooperative movement and its projects in different areas.

Committee announces recommendations to boost livestock wealth in Amman area

AMMAN (Petra) — An agricultural sector committee, formed by the Amman Development Council, met here Thursday and announced a set of recommendations designed to promote the livestock wealth in the Amman area.

A statement issued at the end of the meeting recommended that the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) take direct charge of the distribution of animal feed to the farmers and set up an addi-

tional number of distribution centres, especially in areas where livestock is raised.

The committee recommended that a national plan be prepared to organise the process of importing and exporting sheep, and to select new breeds that normally give a higher yield of meat, wool and other products.

The committee also recommended that natural and artificial pasture lands be created, animal feed be planted on a large scale

and that fodder processing plants be encouraged.

It also recommended that dairy processing plants set up centres for collecting and refrigerating fresh milk, urged the government to reexamine the procedure of issuing licences for cattle farms and set up slaughter houses within the Amman Governorate.

Other issues discussed at the meeting dealt with water resources and the exploitation of state-owned land.

ACC states to boost cooperation in regional, international scenes

(Continued from page 1)

negotiate with the PLO."

Shamir's plan to hold elections seeks only to put an end to the uprising and transform the Arab-Israeli conflict to an Arab-Arab one, Qasem said.

"The elections is a democratic and basic demand with direct relevance to the practice of the Palestinian people to their political rights, mainly, the right to self-determination," he said. But when it becomes a tactical target, and not a strategic one that aims at peace, it would fail," he said.

"Jordan supports the PLO in its demand to hold elections in a democratic atmosphere which expresses what the Palestinian people in the occupied territories want. Adjustments to Shamir's plan by the Likud show that Israel has no real intentions to establish a comprehensive peace in the region through negotiations with the Palestinian side," he said.

On Jordanian measures to counter Israeli propaganda campaigns against the Kingdom, Qasem said: "Israel, throughout the last 40 years, has gained increasing support, both in Europe and America as a result of its continuous attempts. When Israel was dealing with a certain country unable to understand the reality of the Zionist philosophy, that country reacted with extremism, which enhanced Israel's existence and possibility of expansion. But Jordan, in 1967, and for the first time, removed the mask off Israel when it accepted the (land for peace) principle. Since that time Israel has been trying to hurt the country, either through political rumours, or through false statements that the economic situation has become very difficult. But Jordan is

capable of dealing with the situation through the awareness of its people and their being accustomed to these continuous attempts in addition to its cooperation with the Palestinian people and other Arab countries."

He ridiculed Israeli rumours that His Majesty King Hussein was not in good health and its claims that Jordan intended to devalue the Jordanian dinar and/or change it into a pound.

Qasem said that the higher tripartite committee should be given more time to decide what action should be taken to reach an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon, opening of crossings, lifting the sieges and convening the Lebanese parliament. He stressed the

need for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and to give the Lebanese people the chance to settle the matter among themselves.

"His Majesty King Hussein has earlier called for the formation of an Arab peace force to reassure the Arab countries and to protect Lebanon from the Israeli danger," he noted.

In their efforts to support the intifada, Arab countries has met their obligations towards the Palestinian people, but Jordan, not able to offer direct financial support, has opened its markets for Palestinian agricultural products and agreed to channel it to other countries, Qasem said.

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Jordan Times

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Jordan has no fears

ONE of the principal myths that Israel keeps advancing on the international arena to frustrate the Palestinian exercise of self-determination is the absurd notion that an independent Palestinian state would constitute a fatal threat to both Israel and Jordan. In so doing Israeli leaders opted to capitalise on Jordan's exemplary reputation world-wide and to exploit it in an attempt to solicit support for its determined policy to abort the creation of a free and democratic Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. Many well-intentioned governments have fallen in this well-manipulated Israeli trap and started believing in this big Israeli lie.

His Majesty King Hussein's words to the European Atlantic Group in London Thursday laid to rest the outrageous Israeli claim that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has a lot to fear from a Palestinian state. In fact the Kingdom has no fears from any quarter. The theme of the King's speech to the group was the subject of an independent Palestinian state, which he described as an essential component of any peace settlement of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. His Majesty went on to say that the security and well-being of Jordan and all states in the region, including Israel, can only have expression in the context of a comprehensive peace settlement of the Palestinian case and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict.

So let it be known everywhere, especially in Tel Aviv, that an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip does not and will not pose any threat to Jordan. On the contrary, given the new facts in the Middle East, such a state has become a sine qua non to a permanent peace in the Middle East. King Hussein's categorical rejection of the "phobia complex" associated with the creation of an independent state of Palestine on national Palestinian soil is tantamount to serving all parties with a political notice that Jordan's acceptance of the establishment of such a state is firm and final. No party, especially Israel, should continue to delude itself with false and bankrupt hopes that the so-called Jordan option can still be resurrected. As His Majesty King Hussein has poignantly informed the world through the European Atlantic Group, Jordan's decision to yield full responsibility to the Palestinians over their future course was not taken precipitously but rather carefully and thoughtfully after twenty years of bitter and painful experiences. It would be prudent, therefore, to move ahead in the quest for a permanent and just settlement of the Palestinian case and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of emerging new foundations and facts rather than look backward.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

At Ra'i Friday echoed parts of King Hussein's address to the European Atlantic Group in London in which he stressed the core of the Middle East peace process lies with the fact that the Palestinian people should be able to exercise self-determination. The paper pointed to the King's reference to Israel's obstacles that have so far impeded a lasting settlement to the problem and Shami's elections plan which it said, can never help bring about the aspired peace. The King wanted to place all the facts about the Middle East situation before the European Atlantic Group so as to win further backing for the just cause of the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain freedom, the paper noted. It said that the address was meant as an encouragement to Europe to shoulder its responsibility and to take steps to end Israeli inhuman measures against the Palestinians; which further escalate tension in the Middle East area. King Hussein made it clear that Israel's friends, specially the United States, should take steps to persuade Israel to stop its inhuman practices and to listen to the call of reason, the paper added.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments Friday on a meeting in Amman by Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries in implementation of an ACC summit resolutions taken by the heads of state of the four countries in Alexandria. The meeting in Amman, says Mahmoud Al Rimawi is designed to coordinate the foreign policies of Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen in all matters concerning the four countries on the one hand and those that are of interest to the Arab Nation, on the other. This meeting is also designed to formulate joint policies with regard to pan-Arab issues and world questions; and indeed there are lots of issues on which the foreign ministers of the ACC countries should reach consensus and agreement starting from the continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands to the Gulf question, the writer notes. He says that the Arabs expect the ACC foreign ministers to step up efforts towards convening an international peace conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict, to find a peaceful formula for Lebanon and to transform the Iraq-Iran ceasefire agreement into a lasting peace settlement.

Al Dustour daily said in editorial that the King's address to the European Atlantic group in London served as a message to the world community which he urged to convince Israel to respond favourably to the call of peace. The paper said that no peace effort can succeed without the participation of the PLO which represents the Palestinian people and leads their struggle for freedom. The King's address to the meeting in London, said the paper, contained clarification about the Middle East situation in general and shed more light on Israel's inhuman practices and its plans to obstruct the peace process in particular, the paper noted. It said that the King displayed to the world community that it is Israel which is responsible for the lack of peace in our region.

Palestinian state is essential for peace

The following is the full text of His Majesty King Hussein's address to the European Atlantic Group in London on July 20.

Mr. President, my lords, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to be with you today, to share some thoughts on the subject of an independent Palestinian state. Such a state must be an essential component of any peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, because peace can only endure if it is based on justice for all concerned parties.

So much has been said and written about this subject that it has become difficult, at times, to distinguish fact from political polemics. Israel and pro-Israeli groups in the West try to promote the image of a Palestinian state as a mortal danger to its neighbours. Some groups still maintain the illusion that Palestine and the national Palestinian identity do not exist. Others suggest that Jordan is Palestine, or that the Palestinian problem is a refugee rather than a national problem, that could be solved by programmes of relocation and assimilation into the broader Arab World.

Today, I would like to share with you my thoughts on why an independent Palestinian state is essential to peace and stability in the Middle East.

When my great grandfather Sharif Hussein Bin Ali led the Great Arab Revolt in the second decade of this century, he reflected the political ideology and popular sentiments of the first stirrings of Arab nationalism. The revolt was an expression of Arab aspirations for independence, unity, and progress. The prevalent political climate, and the great powers of the day, prevented the achievement of these universally-held nationalist objectives. Instead, the Arab World was divided into a number of nation states, with the encouragement of the great powers.

Yet, aspirations for Arab unity remained very much alive. The next fifty years would witness a series of attempts to forge larger entities — trans-national, pan-Arab groupings that would give practical expression to the grassroots will for a single Arab Nation. These early attempts failed; some because they ran against the wishes of the dominant powers, others because they did not address fully the complexities of forging a single national entity from a number of smaller states with functioning institutional structures.

Similar to the European model, sub-regional groupings of states have been formed to promote economic and institutional complementarity as a precursor of political unity.

Similarly, Palestinian nationalism emerged in the early decades of this century as a pan-Arab movement. In 1950, it was given concrete expression in unity with Jordan, which was successful until Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967. The combination of the prolonged Israeli occupation of the West Bank, and the emergent state-nationalism in many Arab countries led the Palestinians to claim an independent state of their own on their national soil. Now, and in keeping with the new orientation towards sub-regional groups in the Arab World, the Palestinian objective has become an independent state in confederation with Jordan.

When the Palestinians sought

unity with Jordan after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, they expressed both their yearning for Arab unity and their recognition of the Jordanian Army's feat in salvaging the West Bank. Their request was expressed both in public rallies, and through delegations to my late grandfather, King Abdullah Bin Al Hussein. King Abdullah cherished the union as a tangible step towards the goal of Arab unity. It echoed both the historic message of the Great Arab Revolt, and the contemporary political ethos of Jordan. Hence, he instigated the constitutional process that culminated in the act of unity of 1950. The act, which was ratified by a Jordanian Parliament, democratically elected in equal numbers from the East and West Banks, committed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan "to affirm the safeguarding of all Arab rights in Palestine, and the defence of those rights through all legitimate means, and to fulfill those rights completely and not to prejudice a final solution, within the framework of national aspirations, Arab co-operation, and international justice of the just cause of Palestine."

Though the West Bank fell under Israeli military occupation in 1967, legally it remained Jordanian territory, and the West Bankers remained Jordanian citizens. In the seventies, they began to express a more distinct brand of Palestinian nationalism, for several reasons: Their prolonged physical separation from the East Bank, their harsh plight under occupation, and the evolution of state nationalism in the Arab World.

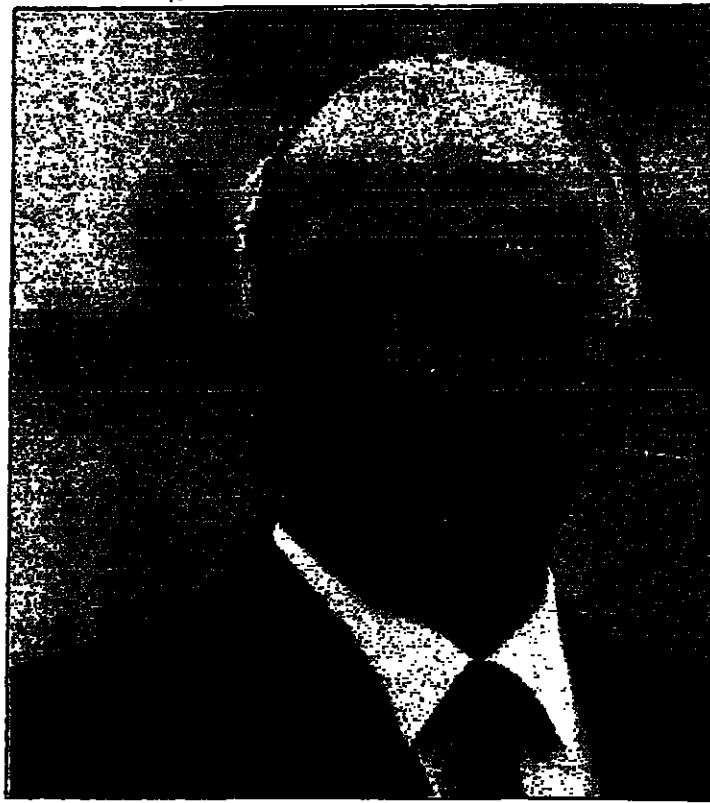
Recognising this fact, and in fulfilment of our constitutional pledge to defend Palestinian rights and not to prejudice a final solution of the Palestinian issue, Jordan offered the united Arab Kingdom proposal in 1972. We presented three options for regulating Jordanian-Palestinian relations after the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories:

- (1) Return to unity as before the Israeli occupation;
- (2) full independence; and
- (3) federation between the two banks of the Jordan.

At that time we favoured federation as the most appropriate expression of our mutual commitment to the principles of Arab unity and Palestinian rights. It satisfied the reality of Palestinian national identity while maintaining the constructive bonds between the East and West Banks. Unfortunately, the proposal was turned down by Israel, Egypt, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

When the Rabat Arab Summit of 1974 designated the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, it also requested Jordan to continue representing Palestinian interests in the West Bank. We agreed to do so because we feared that disengaging from the West Bank, then would have created a political vacuum. Israel would have exploited the situation to support its claim that there was nobody entitled to sovereignty over the West Bank, and proceeded to annex it.

In 1982, the Fez Arab Summit declared that the objective of the peace process was to establish an independent Palestinian state. The situation that resulted could



"The security and well-being of Jordan and all states in the region, including Israel, can only be safeguarded by a comprehensive peace settlement that includes the just and permanent resolution of all aspects of the Palestine issue — an issue of a people who demand, and should exercise, their right of national self-determination on their ancestral soil."

only be characterised by imprecision and ambiguity. Jordan was expected to represent Palestinian interests, but not Palestinians, with no definition of the extent or limits of this representation. Consequently, all our efforts to coordinate a joint peace strategy with the PLO met with Palestinian scepticism and suspicion, and, ironically, with outright Israeli rejection. The PLO feared that Jordan sought to impose its hegemony on the West Bank. Israeli rejectionism was based on the claim that Jordan did not represent the Palestinians.

For some twenty years, our attempts to promote a genuine and meaningful peace process on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, encountered the major obstacle, that Israel was using the Jordanian option purely as a delaying tactic. In reality, Israel sought to solve the Palestinian problem either by means of the "transfer plan," of forcibly pushing the Palestinians across the river, into Jordan; or by its peculiar interpretation of the "autonomy plan," which would designate them alien residents. We had reached an impasse which could only be broken by dismissing the Jordanian option.

At this critical moment, the Palestinian national uprising, the intifada, started, in December 1987. The intifada set many things right: It focussed attention on the essential human component and political core of the Palestinian struggle; it dramatically reaffirmed the national identity of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories — a people deeply tied to the Palestinian earth that is their physical patrimony, proud of their cultural identity, aware of their political rights, and fearlessly resisting occupation to achieve their national rights. Nobody could possibly claim that Palestine is a land without people. Moreover, the intifada

affirmed the organic relationship between the Palestinians in Palestine, and the PLO leadership in exile. Day after day, the Palestinians in the occupied territories, defy the inhuman and arbitrary penalties meted on them by Israel for asserting their allegiance to the PLO as their sole legitimate representative. The PLO has transcended the narrow role of formal political representation to become the expression of a national identity and a national will. This is what Mr. Yasser Arafat means when he says that every Palestinian in the occupied territories is a member of the PLO.

We wanted to seize the moment to advance the peace process, but the experience of the previous six years had made it clear that, under prevailing conditions, the PLO would not enter into the peace process in partnership with Jordan. We needed to allay the PLO's suspicions of Jordan's motives, and we needed to disabuse Israel of the misconception that it could solve the Palestinian problem on Jordanian soil or through an extra-territorial Jordanian legal and administrative framework.

To achieve these objectives, Jordan decided, in the eighth month of the intifada, to sever its administrative and legal links with the West Bank. The disengagement had instant and positive results: It sharply re-focused world attention on the Palestinian-Israeli struggle as the heart of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict; it also prompted the PLO to leave the confines of ideological puritanism and enter the realm of political realism.

For the first time, the PLO began to deal with the Palestinian national cause on the basis of international and regional realities. This transformation is embodied by its acceptance of the two-state formula, which the world had accepted in 1947, even before Great Britain had with-

drawn from Palestine, in the form of United Nations Resolution 181.

The bold new clarity in the PLO's political programme freed it from the legacy of the national Palestinian charter. The total liberation of Palestine, and the objective of a single Palestinian state in all of mandated Palestine is no longer envisaged. The objective has become a Palestinian state in part of Palestine; in other words, in all the territories occupied in June of 1967, the subject addressed by Security Council Resolution 242.

Mr. Yasser Arafat made this clear in the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva, and in subsequent statements. He also made it clear that the Palestinians want an independent state on their national soil, with all the legal rights and attributes of national sovereignty that are enjoyed by Israel and all other states of the world. Moreover, this new outlook was bolstered by the unanimous endorsement of the Arab World in the recent Casablanca summit.

The Palestinians and the Arab World have made a historic compromise — to concede geography, but not quality of national rights. The PLO has now met all the prerequisites and requirements to achieve peaceful settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in line with international legitimacy, and global consensus.

We believe that Europe identified correctly the political imperative of our region when it stated, in the Venice Declaration, that the "Palestinian people must be placed in a position, by an appropriate process, defined within the framework of the comprehensive peace settlement, to exercise fully its right to self-determination." We also believe that the Palestinians have articulated clearly their legitimate demand for a state of their own, on their national soil, living in peace with its neighbours.

The one remaining obstacle to a just peace is Israel's inability to reach a decision on the future of the Arab territories that it has occupied by force for twenty two years.

Israel is governed by a coalition of the two largest political alliances in the country; but this coalition is based on the lowest common denominator of political consensus. Its ability to act falls far short of what is required of it to react positively to new opportunities in the region.

For instance, Israeli leaders agree on the need to end the intifada, but they differ on what they might offer in return. The Israeli prime minister's proposal for elections in the occupied territories is carefully formulated so as to end the intifada without providing any tangible guarantees of subsequent progress towards a permanent peace settlement.

To hold elections without a prior Israeli acceptance, in principle, of the applicability of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to the occupied territories, as they were applied to Sinai, would be to engage in a process of considerable apparent motion, without substantive progress. A peace process that does not lead to the full exercise of Palestinian national self-determination will only exchange one deadlock for another. And yet, Israel persists in its rejection of moves towards a negotiated peace based on the

concept of Palestinian self-determination alongside the state of Israel.

The Israeli claim that a Palestinian state would present a mortal threat to itself and to Jordan is a sad manifestation of Israel's dilemma — unwilling to accept world consensus, and fearing the isolation that would result from being the only nation to reject it. The security and well-being of Jordan and all states in the region, including Israel, can only be safeguarded by a comprehensive peace settlement that includes the just and permanent resolution of all aspects of the Palestine issue — an issue of a people who demand, and should exercise, their right of national self-determination on their ancestral soil. Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and Palestinian self-determination are the essential components of a just and permanent peace settlement.

Israel's obdurate and rejectionist attitude is not new. What is new, though, is the questioning and soul-searching which the intifada has spawned among Israeli writers, journalists, academics, and even some politicians. They wonder about the future of Israel: Will it be safe? Will it maintain the ideals of the early Zionists and the founders of the state? Will it become a bi-national Jewish/Arab state? How long can it deny the Palestinians the right of self-determination which it claims for its people? What is the true economic, psychological moral, and political cost of perpetual military occupation? What possibilities can be envisaged for a long-term peaceful relationship with the Palestinians now under Israeli occupation?

It is heartening that after 41 years of statehood, the Israelis are asking questions about the fundamental relationship between Israelis and Arabs. Such questions have caused deep rifts in the Israeli polity, even within the major parties. Israel is starting to strain under the pressure of the realisation that it cannot be a secure state unless it allows the Palestinians to enjoy their own state in Palestine. The message should be clear: the Palestinian nation struggles to assert itself, to manifest its destiny, to exercise its political rights, and to protect its people within the security of a sovereign state. It is a message that should ring familiar to Israeli and Jewish ears. If peace and justice are to be achieved, Israel must make a historic decision to accept the two-state solution in the land of mandated Palestine.

The opportunity is there, but it also has a political and psychological time-frame. It is not opened. It must be seized, nurtured, and translated into a genuine peace process. Otherwise, forces of frustration and extremism will prevail once again.

For years, Israeli leaders successfully diffused external pressures to face the Palestinian reality. Today, however, the pressures are greater, because they spring from within.

The role of Israel's friends in the world is to convince Israeli people and leaders that this is the moment to respond to Palestinian and Arab overtures; that they have to answer the questions: will they accept land-for-peace? Will they accept Palestinian self-determination? If they do, the road to the peace conference will be open.

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An attempt to kill cocaine at its source appears to fail

By Bryna Brennan
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President George Bush's plan to combat cocaine at the South American source is all but dead just months after its inception, according to officials who cite poor planning and a lack of coordination.

The plan to eradicate and intercept cocaine in Peru and Bolivia — the world's main coca plant producers — also suffered serious setbacks because the two Andean nations are rife with corruption, lack resources and face enormous economic and political problems, he officials say.

In Peru, the largest coca leaf grower, an ambitious U.S. programme has been halted because increasing guerrilla activity threatened American personnel.

South America was to be the battleground for stopping the cocaine flow into the United States. Bush, in his presidential campaign, called for an "international strike force to hit back, quick and hard and often at foreign drug operations" to stop narcotics production at the source.

Most of the world's coca leaves, the source of cocaine, grow in Peru's Upper Huallaga valley, a lush region at the foothills of the Andes known as the 'cocaine cradle'. The sprawling region is a stronghold of a rebel group known as Sendero Luminoso, or 'Shining Path'.

U.S. efforts to operate in the region and set up Bush's strike force were halted because of the security threat, said a spokeswoman for the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics Matters. She spoke on

condition she not be identified. Ground-level eradication, already inefficient because it is done by hand, was slowed further. Aerial spraying, which would effectively stop the plants' four harvests a year, is banned by Bolivian law and repeatedly put off in Peru.

Attempts by about a dozen agents of the drug enforcement administration to locate and destroy makeshift cocaine laboratories and clandestine airstrips have been curtailed by the guerrilla activity, forcing agents to move out of the region and ferry in by helicopter for daytrips.

With the strikeforce approach stalled, DEA agents are falling back on longstanding programmes of advising local authorities. They continue to train Peruvian police while work goes on in the Upper Huallaga valley to shore up a helicopter base to offer enough security against the guerrillas for American personnel to operate full-time in the region.

The work, according to a State Department official, includes "everything from lighting and wires to clearing the area outside the fence so you can see who's coming in."

At the same time, DEA agents will be undergoing a course tailored for them by the U.S. army later this month. Charles J. Gutensohn, chief of cocaine investigations for the DEA, said in an interview that the training is primarily to teach the agents to deal with Peru's jungle environment and the guerrillas operating there.

Responsibility questioned

U.S. officials still disagree on

where prime responsibility for the South American drug mission should lie, with options ranging from the DEA, whose primary role is law enforcement, to the U.S. armed forces, which would go after the traffickers and growers using counterinsurgency tactics.

The CIA, noting the lack of definition, set up a counter narcotics centre in April to "combine operational and analytical support to our country's fight against international drug trafficking," said spokesman Bill Devine. He said the plan is to unite the intelligence community — the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Defence Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the customs service and the DEA.

Declining to elaborate on the mechanics of the CIA centre, Devine added: "The whole idea is to prevent overlap, for everyone to read from the same book."

Some officials say the CIA centre is yet another layer of bureaucracy. And a Senate aide who has travelled to the drug-growing region says the CIA centre could prove unworkable because the agency routinely refuses to cooperate with other agencies because it "doesn't give up its sources, doesn't want to see them in court."

Bush's drug-policy adviser, William Bennett, is to issue a report in September to define the strategies for overseas and at home. A National Security Council report on "who does what" is under way, Bennett spokesman Don Hamilton said.

"Some countries have approached us and asked for

military and economic assistance," Hamilton added, declining to name the nations. "Such requests are indeed under consideration."

An administration official who works closely with drug issues said Peru expressed an interest in military training and upgrading its equipment, mostly aged Soviet weaponry. But the official, who refused to be further identified, said direct U.S. military involvement of the kind reportedly being considered by the National Security Council is "effectively a dead issue" because none of the cocaine-producing countries will invite American troops.

The idea of increased U.S. involvement or sending soldiers to South America has generated strong opinions, with opponents citing the possible loss of American lives and proponents arguing that a direct role increases the chance of success.

Gutensohn, the DEA's chief of cocaine investigations, opposes a military role but endorses his agency's overseas involvement.

"The tactics are paramilitary; the mission is law enforcement. When we get issued the badge you know it could happen," he said, referring to the chances of being killed as a DEA agent. "Upstairs there are 35 badges of (dead) agents hanging on the wall."

But Arnold Trebach, president of the Drug Policy Foundation, a think tank, sees U.S. involvement in South America as futile.

"If we can't control marijuana growing in our own country, what person would dare suggest we could control it in Peru, Bolivia?" he asked.

Ancient new Babylon

BABYLON — For the last eight years the Gulf war has put Iraq pretty much off limits to many tourists. The U.S. State Department advised against visiting the country. But this is changing. War has given way to the peace established in August last year. The State Department's most recent advisory to travellers was still cautionary but pointed out that wartime conditions no longer prevailed. And Iraq says it wants to encourage tourism and is granting visas more readily.

Iraq's attraction for foreigners lies in its history, archaeology and, for many, the aura of romance that surrounds Baghdad, the city where Scheherazade whiled away a thousand and one nights with her exotic tales and Ali Baba boiled the 40 thieves in oil.

Today the Iraqi authorities are seeking to develop ancient Babylon as the nation's premier tourist attraction by reconstructing the vast Southern Palace that King Nebuchadnezzar built there in the sixth century B.C., along with the famed Ishtar Gate and several ancient temples. Reconstruction is also going on at other archaeological sites and most notably at Nineveh, or Mosul as it is called today, but on nothing like the scale seen at Babylon.

If the Iraqi government carries out this promise to develop a tourist industry, it should eventually be possible to arrange tours of Iraq that would include both ancient archaeological sites and the many fine examples of earlier Islamic architecture. But for now, prices in Iraq are high, and it is not worth the expense and effort of a separate trip to the historical sites of Iraq alone.

Rather, Baghdad and the reconstruction of Nebuchadnezzar's palace are best thought of as a bonus on a business trip or as

part of a Middle East tour. Such a tour could lead logically from the pyramids of Egypt to the red rock city of Petra in Jordan and continue by way of Baghdad to the Gulf island of Bahrain. Archaeologists now believe that Bahrain was the site of the ancient civilization of Dilmun, where at the beginning of history the story of the Garden of Eden makes its first appearance.

Iraq takes its past seriously and delights in calling itself the cradle of civilization. For Mesopotamia, the fertile wedge of land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, was the site of the early civilizations of Ur, Eridu, Nineveh and, of course, Babylon — home of the Hanging Gardens and the Tower of Babel, whose decadent, pagan splendor is recorded in the Book of Revelation.

Alas, alas, that great city. That was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches are come to naught.

By rebuilding portions of ancient Babylon, Iraq is trying to create images of the past that ordinary people can appreciate and understand. Nearby countries, with proud pasts, have imposing ruins to show visitors — the pyramids of Egypt, the Parthenon in Athens, King Midas's palace at Knossos in Crete. But the creators of Mesopotamian civilization built with mud brick, not stone, and their handiwork has been reduced to little more than earth mounds. These make fine excavating sites for archaeologists but are scarcely tourist attractions.

Even with the Iraq-Iran war over, foreigners should be aware that Iraq can seem an unwelcom-

ing country. It is tightly controlled. Foreign newspapers and books are banned, though a thin official English-language paper appears daily in Baghdad. The personality cult of its leader, President Saddam Hussein, has reached astonishing proportions, with vast pictures of him staring down from every crossroads, every building, every office wall.

The country is also expensive: with the Iraqi dinar currently pegged at about \$3.40, the exchange rate leaves a tube of toothpaste costing \$8 and the most modest meal in one of Baghdad's major hotels around \$40 a head.

In summer, the heat is oppressive, with temperatures getting into the 40s Centigrade from June through September. Heat exhaustion is a hazard, and a dusty wind adds to the unpleasantness. Winters are cooler.

Babylon is the closest major historical site to Baghdad, about 100 kilometres south on a tolerably good road. At present the only practical way to get there is by taxi, which is expensive. The large Baghdad hotels all have their own taxi services with sizable, comfortable cars in reasonably good condition. The opening price may well be 100 dinars, or \$340, for the day trip, but bargaining should get this down to \$200 to \$240. The smaller, local taxis that swarm around the big hotels are cheaper but they are less comfortable and reliable. The best thing is to try to share a hotel car with like-minded guests. The hotel will help put together parties.

The drive to Babylon takes an hour and a half. Visitors should wear informal clothes and good hiking shoes because plenty of walking and climbing are involved. After a police checkpoint at the outskirts of Baghdad, the

road runs across flat, muddy country, dotted with palm groves and market gardens.

The first glimpses of Babylon are indeed disappointing. "Clothed in fine linen and purple" the city may have been, but today the signpost pointing to Nebuchadnezzar's unexcavated Northern Palace reveals only a huge earth mound. Soon the road swings to the right and there, at the end of an avenue of trees, stands a fortified gateway of blue glazed tiles decorated with dragons and bulls. It is a half-size reconstruction of the Ishtar Gate, which once stood on the Processional Way, ancient Babylon's main thoroughfare. Ishtar was the most widely worshipped goddess in Babylonian religion; and it was along the Processional Way that the images of the gods were carried during the New Year festival.

The gate's reconstruction, like that of the Southern Palace itself, is based on designs by Robert Koldewey and Walter Andrae, the German archaeologists who excavated the area before World War I and carried off to Berlin most of the magnificent glazed tiles that once covered the gate and the principal palace chambers.

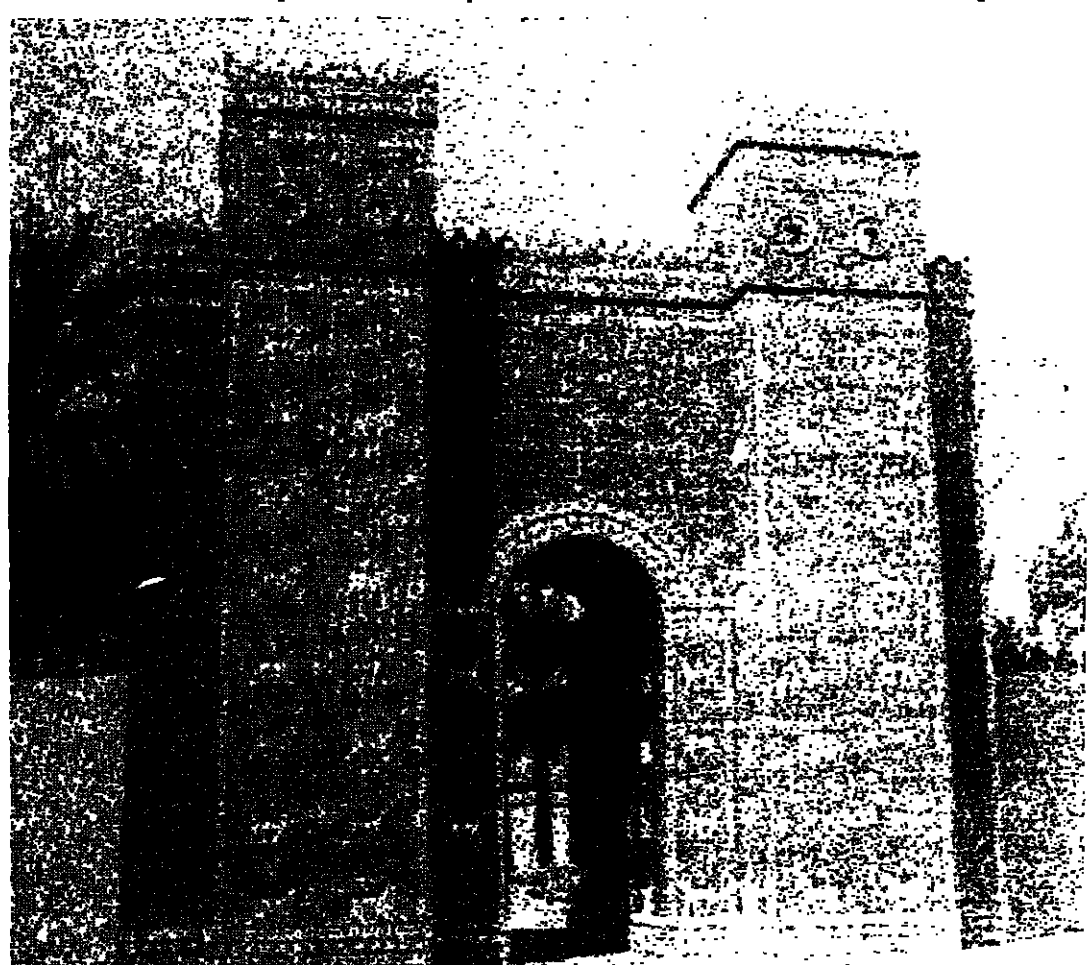
The gate marks the entrance to reconstructed Babylon, which is essentially the Babylon of King Nebuchadnezzar, the city's most famous monarch, and one of the towering figures of the ancient world, who ruled from around 604 to 562 B.C. The king figures prominently in the Bible, though since he sacked Jerusalem and brought many Jews back to Babylon in captivity, its portrait of him is less than flattering.

The Ishtar Gate leads to a courtyard with a gift shop selling books and maps of Babylon and a museum showing reconstructions of the city that include the impressive Etemenanki Ziggurat, believed to be the original Tower of Babel. From here visitors walk up to the wide flagged Processional Way, which overlooks the reconstructed Southern Palace now approaching completion. For the last three years more than 1,000 Sudanese labourers have been piling yellow brick upon yellow brick, rebuilding this immense edifice, formed around five great courtyards and containing about 500 rooms. Today the outer, crenelated walls, which the Greeks considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World, along with the Hanging Gardens, are awesome in length and height. But the succession of bare roofless rooms inside seem uninteresting, except for the vaulted subterranean chambers, and the Throne Room.

Koldewey and Andrae thought the underground chambers were the foundations of the Hanging Gardens, though contemporary archaeologists say they were storage rooms. The huge Throne Room, with its dais, was the probable site of Belshazzar's Feast, when the prophet Daniel read the writing on the wall foretelling Babylon's destruction, and its has a spooky feeling even today.

As impressive as the reconstructed palace are the remains of the first Ishtar Gate, now sunk below the level of the Processional Way, which Nebuchadnezzar decorated with unglazed dragons and bulls and special inscribed bricks proclaiming that he built it.

The reconstructed Temple of Nin Makh, which is usually closed to visitors, stands nearby and beyond it a rest area with picnic tables, where cold drinks and snacks are on sale.



Half-size reconstruction of the Ishtar Gate is decorated with dragons and bulls.

Liberty, equality and fraternity — in their perfect forms

The Jordan Times will reprint several of these interviews over the next week

Shusaku Endo, (writer)

Shusaku Endo is one of the greatest, and, for some, the greatest, of Japanese writers today. For a number of years, he has also been the best-known Japanese writer in France, as many of his books have been translated into French. Shusaku Endo was born in Tokyo in 1923. First, he lived in Italian in northern China and only returned to Japan in 1933 with his mother after his divorce. He was baptised at the age of 11 and is a Catholic novelist whose spiritual preoccupations inspire most of his works (during a stay in France in the early 1950s, in Lyons, he studied Mauriac and Bernanos), but, for all that, he is still one of the most widely read writers in his own country. His numerous books have gained him the most prestigious literary distinctions in Japan.

The historical significance of the French Revolution?

Several years ago, I went to visit the "Invalides" where there is a museum on the Revolution. As I was asking questions about Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette, the guide asked me why I, a Japanese, was interested in those things which, in his opinion, were none of my business.

Yet, for people of my generation, when one speaks of the French Revolution, its three ideals, liberty, equality and fraternity, are familiar.

Indeed, after the Second World War, when Japan was occupied by the Americans, these three words were often on the lips of my compatriots and the French Revolution was frequently quoted as an example in our publications.

The French Revolution has an international dimension and has provided the world with a procedure for reflection on democracy, on social structure and on the very notion of Equality and the Liberty.

When one thinks of the political regime of a country, for exam-

ple in Latin America but also in other regions, one first of all thinks of the way these three ideals are interpreted in deeds.

The universal value of these ideals?

When talking with a communist (I do not mean communists today, but those in my youth), he would say, for instance, that liberty did not have the same significance in a capitalist country, and that equality had the same name but not the same nature in each case.

Moreover, for us Orientals or Japanese, for example, the problem of equality has to be placed in the context of relations between East and West. At the time of the French Revolution, equality was confined in the limits of the West. At that period, it was not equality on an international scale. However, I think it was a point of departure. If it had not been for the French Revolution, the problem of equality might not have been posed on a planetary scale.

The achievement of these ideals? Frankly speaking, it seems to

me that a perfect achievement of fraternity, for instance, is impossible.

If all men believed in a religion which, like Buddhism, taught that salvation lay in abandoning all attachments one might have on earth, then it would be possi-

ble to speak of perfect equality and fraternity.

However, Christianity does not preach detachment from this world. For example, love is not a sin for Christianity whereas it is, for Buddhism because it is a form of attachment.

The French Revolution and its major achievement, the Declaration of the Rights of Man, whose Bicentenary is now being celebrated all over the world, concern us all, from Tokyo to Ottawa and including Buenos Aires, Reykjavik, Moscow, Singapore and Conakry.

Eminent personalities on a world scale in their field, be it political, economic, religious, cultural or sportive, agreed to speak about them in "L'Actualité en France."

Some of them accepted to reply to specific questions. Others preferred to give their spontaneous reflections on these subjects whose topicality is more than ever felt.

The diversity of opinions on the French Revolution is matched by the ardent unanimity for the defence of the Rights of Man, conquered in 1789.

Christianity, therefore, does not make it possible to achieve liberty, equality and fraternity, in their perfect forms. But, as ideals, these three values remain objectives which are extremely difficult to attain, but towards which men should always strive.

The interest of the revolution for a novelist like you?

The French Revolution contains both sombre and beneficent aspects, with the former being represented by the massacres, the tortures and the death penalties (but this is not peculiar to the

French Revolution).

There are also the problems of the aims and means (for the French, Saint-Just symbolises this problem) such as the matter of the struggles for power or that of the sacrifices which have to be accepted in order to achieve a political ideal.

In short, all the problems of modern times are already present in the French Revolution.

As a novelist, without wanting to write a work on the French Revolution, I am interested in it because it shows that, as far as human nature is concerned, there is no difference between Japan and France.

It is also possible to draw parallels, when speaking of human nature, between the French Revolution and the problems of the Soviet Union at the time of Stalin, the Moscow trials, etc. The French Revolution is a very good example of the two sides of human nature.

Among the many characters in the French Revolution who

attract my attention, I will mention Louis XVI. At the end of his life, he seems to have wanted to imitate Jesus Christ, persuaded as he was that a king had to be an incarnation of God.



Cinema

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Imam/Yusra/Eiman
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(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

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THE LOST BOYS

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Cinema

PLAZA

Tel: 677420

PINBALL SUMMER

Performances: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30, p.m.



Bush sets space goals — Mars, supremacy

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has proposed that U.S. astronauts return to the moon early in the 21st century and then blast off for Mars to make America the world's top space-faring nation again.

Bush chose the 20th anniversary Thursday of the first manned moon landing to unveil his vision of a "journey into tomorrow" and a new "pathway to the stars."

Although critics in Congress quickly questioned his plan on the grounds of enormous and unspecified cost, calling it a "daydream," Bush threw his weight behind grand goals designed to reinvigorate the troubled U.S. program and restore America to pre-eminence in an area dominated by the Soviet Union.

"Our goal is nothing less than to establish the United States as the pre-eminent space-faring nation," he declared at an Air and Space Museum ceremony in Washington, where he was flanked by the heroes of America's original moon landing.

He proposed a long-range, continuing commitment that would include the launching of space station freedom, the first U.S. orbital laboratory, in the 1990s.

"For the new century, back to the moon, back to the future and this time back to stay. And then a journey into tomorrow, a journey to another planet, a manned mission to Mars," said Bush, who set no specific timetable nor allocated any budget for his ambitious space goals.

Sharing the presidential platform at the museum, where the Apollo-11 space capsule other artifacts of the historic moon flight are on display, were Neil Armstrong, the first astronaut to set foot on the lunar surface, and Armstrong's crewmates, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins.

Democratic critics greeted Bush's proposals sceptically. "By proposing a return to the moon and a manned base on Mars with no money, no timetable, and no plan, President Bush offers the country not a challenge to inspire us but a daydream to briefly entertain us," Senator Albert Gore, a Democrat from Tennessee, told a Capitol Hill news conference.

House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt said Bush had to show he could find the resources to restore America's pre-eminence in space.

"In sum, Mr. President, there is no such thing as a free lunch," Gephardt said, adding that investments in education, research, science and engineering were essential if moon and Mars missions were to get off the ground.

"Financing them, establishing more than a rhetorical commitment to them, will be the president's real challenge," he said.

Walsh to scale down charges on Poindexter

WASHINGTON (R) — Independent prosecutor Lawrence Walsh has asked a federal judge to dismiss the most serious Iran-contra charges against retired Admiral John Poindexter, Oliver North's former White House boss.

Walsh said Thursday he was trying to avoid delaying Poindexter's trial over the use of sensitive national security secrets by dropping charges of conspiracy to divert funds from U.S. arms sales to Iran, theft of government property and fraud.

Poindexter would still face criminal charges of lying to Congress and obstructing the congressional Iran-contra investigation at his trial, expected to start this autumn.

Poindexter was Ronald Reagan's National Security adviser for nearly a year until he resigned when the Iran-contra scandal was disclosed Nov. 25, 1986.

The same problems over disclosure of classified information forced Walsh to drop similar charges against North. Poindexter's former aide.

North was convicted on three felony charges and was sentenced on July 5 to perform 1,200 hours of community service and to pay \$150,000 in fines.

"We're trying to avoid a long, difficult classified information protection act proceeding," Walsh told Federal Judge Harold Greene.

The charges arose from the scheme to divert millions of dollars from U.S. arms sales to Iran to the Nicaraguan contra rebels at a time when official U.S. aid was banned.

Greene said he would issue a decision within a few days.

CIA fears

A related case against a former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) station chief is imperiled because of the danger of disclosing certain government secrets, sources familiar with the matter say.

The Justice Department is considering intervening in the case of Joseph Fernandez, about to be put on trial by Walsh, said government sources who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Thursday.

Asked about the Fernandez case, Justice Department spokesman David Runkel said: "There are various options that are being debated."

Asked if the options include a move by the department that would scuttle the case, Runkel said, "that's not a decision that we would ever make."

"There are very serious matters being discussed with respect to the Fernandez case and the discussions are ongoing," said Mary Belcher, a spokeswoman for Walsh.

The difficulties revolve around the CIA's fears that too much information about the agency's activities that is now classified is being sought for public use in Fernandez' trial.

Fernandez, the Costa Rica station chief who secretly assisted North's contra resupply network in 1985 and 1986, is accused of two counts of obstruction and two counts of making false statements to Iran-contra investigators.

Khashoggi may be too rich to be free

NEW YORK (R) — Adnan Khashoggi, the jet-setting Saudi arms dealer accused of aiding Ferdinand Marcos in a massive real estate fraud, was just another inmate in an overcrowded New York jail Thursday as a judge considered whether he is too rich to be granted bail.

While news reports claimed the man whose fortune once totalled \$4 billion was now down to his last \$40 million. He was sweeping his cell floor at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre (MCC) and making his own bed after being extradited from Switzerland.

Associates said he was cheerful and confident that he will be found innocent of helping the ousted Philippines president cover up ownership of four Manhattan skyscrapers bought with funds looted from the Philippine treasury.

But the associates conceded that being in jail was hurting Khashoggi's business — selling Western weapons to Third World countries.

The man with 12 houses that are fully staffed at all times was sharing a cell with another inmate at the MCC, a federal prison in lower Manhattan designed for 449 inmates and now housing 850.

Alan Stiefel, executive assistant at the MCC, said that Khashoggi had to trade in his

trendy bottle green safari suit with brass buttons for a brown prison jumpsuit and sneakers.

He is being held in a small cell with a steel door, toilet, wash basin, clothes cupboard, desk and bed. Stiefel declined to say who his cellmate was.

Unlike the Swiss jail where he has been held since April while fighting extradition to the United States, Khashoggi cannot order out for meals. He has to eat what he is given at times no jetsetter would dream of dining — 6 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m. for lunch and 5 p.m. for dinner.

The government is fiercely opposing any bail for Khashoggi, claiming he cannot be trusted not to flee.

Even Federal Judge John Keenan wondered at an arraignment Wednesday whether Khashoggi was so rich that he would be willing to forfeit bail for freedom.

"He could go back to Saudi Arabia and thumb his nose at the United States," the judge said as he ordered Khashoggi to jail while asking his lawyers for briefs to bolster their position.

Khashoggi's lawyer, Robert Morvillo, conceded that anything up to \$5 million bail would mean nothing to his client. But he insisted Khashoggi was no risk and would even pay for security guards pledged to keep him in Manhattan.



Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi waves to supporters at Yokohama station, near Tokyo, during a campaign ahead of Sunday's Upper House elections.

Japan's first woman prime minister in the making?

By Tetsuo Jimbo
The Associated Press

KOHIYAMA — In a new twist for a Japanese socialist politician, party Chairwoman Takako Doi is enjoying something akin to celebrity status.

Schoolgirls await her with bunches of flowers. Crowds follow her, shout her name and try to shake her hand. Some 160 undercover police keep watch on street corners and atop nearby buildings as she campaigns for Sunday's elections for parliament's upper house.

Pollsters and analysts say a new sales tax and an influence-peddling scandal have turned voters against the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the conservative group that has dominated Japanese politics for the last 34 years. Women's groups also have criticized new Prime Minister Souseki Uno because of allegations that he kept paid mistresses.

Doi's popularity is expected to make the Socialists the main beneficiaries of the voters' anger with the ruling party. Her party, the largest opposition group in parliament, hopes to increase its share of the 252-seat upper house from 43 spots to at least 65. Pollsters say the Liberal Democrats likely will fall from 142 seats to fewer than 120.

"To be honest, I never imagined she would become this popular three years ago," said Sukio Iwatare, a party official and veteran lawmaker, as Doi spoke Wednesday to a crowd in Kohiyama, in northern Japan's Fukushima prefecture. "I think it is nothing but her lovable personality that led to this Doi fever."

Thai call for Cambodia truce gains momentum

BANGKOK (AP) — Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan and other top officials have welcomed Vietnam's support for a proposed truce in the war between the government and guerrilla forces in Cambodia and guerrilla forces.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach told Vietnamese television Wednesday that he agreed with the proposal Chatichai made earlier this year for a truce before Vietnam's pull-out by Sept. 30.

"The Cambodian issue cannot be solved peacefully without a cease-fire," Thach said, according to official Radio Hanoi, monitored in Bangkok.

"Therefore, Vietnam fully supports the Thai prime minister's proposal that the Cambodian parties sign a ceasefire agreement in Bangkok, and considers this as part of a political solution to the Cambodian issue," he said.

Asked for reaction, Chatichai said he had not yet received the report, but added that "if the four Cambodian parties agree it would be great."

Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetila told reporters the issue

Three years ago, Doi became the first woman to head a major Japanese political party, after her predecessor resigned because of the labour-backed party's defeat in the last national elections.

Since then, Doi, 61, has moved the party's image away from doctrinaire leftist ideas.

On Wednesday, some 3,000 people packed the parking lots in front of Kohiyama's railway station as Doi campaigned for the party's local candidate.

"It is time to bring changes in politics," Doi, wearing a white printed suit, called out from the top of a campaign truck.

After pausing for the cheers, she added: "Give us a chance to run the government. We can do it. We can make tomorrow's Japan better together."

The candidate, Choei Aita, a 60-year-old former labour union official challenging two ruling party incumbents, said Doi "talks about specific policies but she makes it so easy to understand for ordinary people."

He added that her speech gave him "a very good feeling" about winning Sunday.

If the opposition were to win control of the more powerful lower house, in elections that don't have to be held before next year, Doi could become Japan's first woman prime minister.

"Though there are many more hurdles to be cleared, the opposition camp never had such a golden opportunity to take over the government before," said Takayoshi Miyagawa, president and noted political analyst at Seiji Kobo Centre

a prominent research firm. "And if the opposition actually takes over the government, the head of the largest party in the opposition camp would naturally become prime minister," he added.

But the opposition has been criticised for concentrating on opposing the ruling party instead of presenting alternative policy proposals.

"I would love to see Doi become prime minister," said a 36-year-old housewife who listened to her speech. "But I am not sure what it means to have a socialist government. I came here partially to determine its ideas and policies."

Doi emphasises that her party would not make drastic changes. "Continuity is important in politics," she told a news conference after her speech. "It is wrong to think we were trying to bring drastic changes to this country."

The Liberal Democrats contend the Socialists would take such steps as scrapping the U.S.-Japan security treaty. Doi said her party would not unilaterally abandon the pact.

A 40-year-old longtime supporter of the ruling party said, after listening to Doi speak, that he would vote for a Socialist candidate for the first time in Sunday's election.

"If the LDP can't meet our needs any more, I have to find an alternative," said the man, who declined to be identified. "I am not sure if the Socialists can be it, but listening to Doi speak here today made me feel that it may be about time to give the Socialist a chance."



Nguyen Co Thach

of multilateral talks in Indonesia the past year: "The withdrawal of all Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia and the elimination of the genocidal Pol Pot regime," or the Khmer Rouge.

The Cambodian factions are to hold talks in Paris starting Monday. Those talks and the international conference have opened the widest avenue yet for ending the fighting since Vietnam intervened in Cambodia in December 1978, ousted the Khmer Rouge and installed another communist government.

Tamil group ends boycott of parliament

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Twelve former Tamil guerrillas took their seats Friday in parliament, ending a five-month boycott by disavowing a separatist campaign to divide the island nation.

"We come here today in the hope of using parliament as a forum to propagate on behalf of the Tamil people, although we do not think parliament can resolve the ethnic problems of this country," Eliyathamby Ramassabapathy, of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students, (EROS), said after taking the mandatory oath.

The opposition party, won 13 of the 225 parliament seats in the Feb. 13 general election.

The 13th EROS lawmaker did not attend Friday's sessions because he could not get to parliament on time, colleagues said. They did not elaborate.

They boycotted the session until Friday, demanding the government release Tamil political prisoners, hold peace talks with the most militant guerrillas and abolish the sixth amendment to the constitution, which requires all lawmakers to take an oath disavowing the division of the island along ethnic lines.

EROS is widely believed to be closely linked with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the biggest and most militant of the Tamil groups waging a six-year-old campaign for a separate nation in the north and east.

Ramassabapathy said his group was satisfied the government had met most of its demands.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa's government opened peace talks with the Tamil Tigers May 4, the first direct contact since the insurgency began, and ordered the release of hundreds of Tamil political prisoners.

The constitutional amendment was not abolished.

The EROS members joined parliament as it debated whether to extend a state of emergency imposed a month ago to try to curb ethnic violence.

"Emergency laws are not going to solve any problems of the people," Ramassabapathy said. "The government will have to use democratic methods to bring about a solution."

Tamil rebels began fighting for a separate country in 1983. Four years later, the Sinhalese-dominated government offered the rebels limited autonomy in exchange for a surrender of weapons. But the Tigers rejected the plan and began fighting Indian peacekeeping soldiers sent to enforce it.

The agreement also sparked a backlash from Sinhalese radicals who began attacking the government, saying it was giving too many concessions to the Tamils. The two conflicts have left at least 15,000 dead.

Both the government and Tigers called for the withdrawal of India's 40,000 soldiers in Sri Lanka, but New Delhi has refused, saying the Tigers would step up attacks on rival Tamil groups.

India got involved in Sri Lanka's ethnic problems because of its role as a regional power and the sympathies of its own 60 million Tamils for the rebel cause.

Tamils comprise 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and claim they are discriminated against in jobs and education by the Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of the population and control the military and government.

Rangoon cracks down on opposition leaders

RANGOON (R) — The two most prominent opposition leaders in Myanmar (formerly Burma) have been placed under house arrest for endangering the state, a spokesman for the military government said.

The spokesman said Aung San Suu Kyi, secretary of the National League for Democracy, and retired General Tin Oo, the league's chairman, were confined to their homes and were to be held incommunicado.

Under the law they could be confined for up to one year, the spokesman said.

Aung San Suu Kyi, 44, daughter of independent hero Aung San, and Tin Oo, a former defence minister, were in the forefront of the popular movement for democracy that emerged from mass demonstrations last summer.

Armed troops were deployed Thursday round Aung San Suu Kyi's compound in a leafy avenue in the north of the city, preventing anyone from entering or leaving.

The ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which took power after last September's military takeover, deployed thousands of combat-ready troops in the capital this week to counter planned opposition rallies.

The SLORC also tightened up martial law, allowing summary military courts which could impose the death sentence on those

violating military orders.

The spokesman said the 1975 law under which the two were confined was enacted "to prevent acts and deeds endangering the sovereignty and security of the state, peace and tranquility of the public and basic rights of the citizens."

In conditions recalling banning orders in South Africa, the opposition leaders were barred from contacting anyone outside and were allowed visits only by close family members.

Relatives living with them were only allowed to leave the houses under guard.

The spokesman mentioned in particular an interview Aung San Suu Kyi gave to the U.S. radio station Voice of America Wednesday in which she condemned the military government as fascist.

"We felt very much insulted by that false accusation because everybody knows the tamadaw (army) was born out of the resistance against fascism and imperialism," he said.

On Wednesday Aung San Suu Kyi called off a planned march to commemorate the anniversary of her father's 1947 assassination because she feared troops would open fire.

"We have no intention of sending our people into a killing field," she said in an interview with Reuters, and added: "It certainly shows we have a fascist government in power."

OAS calls for new elections in Panama

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Organisation of American States (OAS) Thursday called for Panamanians to stage new elections in the near future without specifically urging military leader General Manuel Noriega to resign.

The 31-nation hemispheric body failed at the end of a lengthy two-day session to spell out the meaning of a key phrase calling for a "transfer of power Sept. 1."

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said the statement meant "General Noriega must go."

But Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said it only referred to the need to find a replacement for Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma, who was handpicked by Noriega after a February 1988 coup.

The victorious candidates in May 7 elections were to have taken power on Sept. 1. The government, however, annulled the elections after reports of a sweeping opposition victory.

Panamanian opposition politicians who observed the third spe-

cial OAS meeting on Panama said the OAS action was contradictory.

Ricardo Arias, an opposition vice-presidential candidate, said he was encouraged that delegations appeared to support Noriega's departure from power by Sept. 1. But he said the opposition worried that the OAS had undercut the results of the May elections by calling for a new vote.

The elections were a virtual referendum on Noriega, a controversial general sought by U.S. courts on drug charges. Noriega in February 1988 ousted President Eric Delvalle after Delvalle sought the military commander's resignation.

Shortly after the elections, the OAS met in an emergency session, condemning Noriega for abusing the electoral process. It formed a four-man diplomatic mission to induce a transfer of power in line with the will of the Panamanian people.

The OAS agreed Thursday to extend the mandate of the mission until Aug. 23.

COLUMN

'I do's' followed by 'You're under arrest'

MANILA (AP) — A 25-year-old man tied the knot and then found himself in handcuffs when police arrested him for marriage documents after his wedding, a newspaper reported Thursday. The Philippines Journal said five policemen went to the town of Casayan, 320 kilometres north of Manila, last Sunday in search of security guard sought in the April slaying of a factory engineer. When the police arrived, they learned that Belen was getting married that day, the newspaper said. The police went to the local church and found the ceremony in progress. Police waited patiently until the service was over. After the priest pronounced the couple man and wife, police Sergeant Reynaldo Enrique walked down the aisle and handcuffed the groom, the newspaper said. Enrico apologised to the guests and then hauled the groom away, the newspaper added.

Goria punched

ROME (R) — An angry neo-fascist deputy punched former Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria and showered him with abuse in parliament Wednesday. Eyewitnesses said Tomaso Staiti, of the neo-fascist MSI-DN party, lashed out at Goria after the two men bumped into each other in a corridor. "I'd been waiting for him since this morning. I gave him a couple of good punches," said Staiti, who was upset by an open letter of Goria's published in the Milan newspaper Il Giornale. Parliamentary stewards separated the two men and Chamber of Deputies (lower house) President Nildo Iotti called for Staiti to be disciplined. In his open letter Goria, who was prime minister from July 1987 to March 1988, defended himself against repeated attacks by Staiti over his role in a north Italian bank which collapsed in the 1970s.

'Dead' baby cries

NATCHITOCHE, Louisiana (AP) — A 900-gramme baby was hospitalised in critical condition one day after a doctor declared her dead, a spokeswoman said Thursday. The girl began to cry moments before an undertaker arrived to pick up her body Wednesday. "The hair just stood up on the back of my neck. By the time the funeral home got there, we had her in the nursery and stabilised and on a respirator," said Dr. Lynn Brouillette, who had pronounced the infant dead. The baby was rushed to Schumpert medical centre's neonatal intensive care unit in Shreveport. Katina Payton, 17, gave birth to the unnamed child around 5 a.m. Wednesday in Natchitoches Parish hospital. The baby was three months premature, Payton said. But the baby had trouble breathing. Brouillette said. Doctors spent 20 minutes trying to resuscitate her. "She had no noticeable heartbeat," Brouillette said.

Plastic bag kills whale

NEW YORK (AP) — A plastic shopping bag may have killed a beaked whale which died at the New York aquarium for days after it was stranded in shallow water off Long Island, authorities said. The whale's stomach was completely filled and partially blocked with plastic debris it had ingested from the ocean, a statement from the Okeanos research foundation said Thursday. "This probably caused the animal significant distress, possible dehydration, malnutrition, and may have contributed to its beaching and subsequent death," the statement said.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	15	22	72
ATHENS	20	32	80
BANGKOK	25	32	80
BARRAN	21	28	81
BELMOS ARES	13	24	75
BEIRUT	15	23	73
CHICAGO	17	22	72
COPENHAGEN	10	16	64
FRANKFURT	08	14	57
GENOVA	12	20	68
HONG KONG	25	29	88
ISTANBUL	18	28	82
LONDON	15	21	68
LOS ANGELES	16	25	79
MADRID	21	30	88
MEXICO	20	34	108
MONTREAL	10	18	64
MOSCOW	10	20	68
NEW DELHI	28	32	82
NEW YORK	18	24	75
PARIS	13	20	68
ROME	15	22	72
SYDNEY	07	15	59
TOKYO	22	28	82
VIENNA	12	21	68

كشافة الأمل

Amid Congress concerns over foreign airlines buying into U.S. carriers

Greenspan fans away inflation threat, moves to minimise risk of recession

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) Board Chairman Alan Greenspan, declaring partial victory over inflation, told Congress Thursday that the central bank has now switched its strategy to preventing an "unnecessary and destructive recession."

He said the Fed faces a difficult balancing act but can probably guide the economy to a soft landing by curbing inflation without choking off expansion now in its 80th month.

"Looking ahead at the remainder of 1989 and into 1990, recent developments suggest that the balance of risks may have shifted somewhat away from greater inflation," he said.

Greenspan's fairly reassuring forecast was good news for the Bush administration, which is concerned that too-tight monetary policy will halt growth.

It was also a tonic for the stock market. The Dow Jones industrial average broke through 2,600 to reach the highest level in nearly 22 months as investors interpreted the comments as an indication that interest rates would go down.

"We tend to be cautious, and rightfully so," Greenspan said in response to a question whether the recent drop in interest rates was the start of a long-term trend.

Although the underlying rate of inflation has not increased, the overall level is still too high, he said.

"Consequently, monetary policy will need to continue to focus on laying the groundwork for gradual progress toward price stability," he said.

In contrast to the last time he reported to Congress in February, Greenspan stressed the danger now is that the Fed could keep money tight for too long.

"It is prudent for the Federal Reserve to recognise the risk that softness conceivably could cumulate and deepen, resulting in a substantial downturn in activity," he said. "What we seek to avoid is an unnecessary and destructive recession."

The central bank predicted the economy, after adjusting for inflation, will grow by two per cent to 2.5 per cent this year and by 1.5 per cent to two per cent in 1990. Inflation as measured by the consumer price index should ease to between 4.5 per cent and five per cent in 1990 from five to 5.5 per cent.

The Fed chairman made it clear he would not move swiftly to cut money-market interest rates further.

He predicted a narrowing of the U.S. trade deficit, despite a 24 per cent rise in May to \$10.24 billion, saying: "I do think that exports have a way to go — perhaps a significant way to go on

the upside for the United States."

In other testimony on Capitol Hill, White House economic adviser Michael Boskin said inflation seemed to be under control and interest rates were likely to fall next year.

The Congressional Budget Office, a bipartisan arm of the Congress that analyses the budget, issued its own report saying the economy will slow but avoid a recession.

Meanwhile, the Transportation Department and a congressional committee are looking into the increasing sales of stock in U.S. airlines to foreign carriers.

Foreign airlines already have gained minority interests in America West, Hawaiian, Continental and Delta Airlines, and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has a 400 million share in the planned takeover of Northwest Airlines by a California investor.

"It's a phenomenon that's coming on like a train," Senator John McCain said at a Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee hearing prompted by the Northwest takeover bid. The committee is considering a bill by McCain and the committee chairman, Senator Wendell Ford, to require Transportation Department approval for all airline acquisitions.

The proposed takeover of Northwest's parent company, NWA Inc., by Wings Holdings Inc., headed by Los Angeles businessman Alfred Checchi, would be the first leveraged buyout in the airline industry. Other investors, including the Dutch airlines, are involved in the deal with Checchi.

Ford said the trend of investors looking to take over healthy airlines is "very disturbing." He said it could lead to newly acquired major carriers selling international

al routes, delaying purchase of new aircraft, cutting corners on safety or forcing wage reductions to meet the demands of new owners.

He said foreign investments in airlines are developing without any formal government policy review.

Jeffrey Shane, assistant transportation secretary, said the department already has sufficient power to head off undesirable takeovers with its "fitness review" process. A takeover that doesn't pass likely won't take place, Shane said, because investors will back out.

But Shane acknowledged growing concern in the department about foreign investments in U.S. airlines. The department recently sent a letter to Checchi asking several questions about the degree of foreign involvement in his plans to take over Northwest.

The law limits foreign ownership of airlines to 25 per cent and does not allow more than one-third of the board membership to be foreigners.

But Shane said control, not share of ownership, is the critical issue.

Ansett Airlines of Australia has a 20 per cent interest in America West, a subsidiary of Japan Air Lines owns 20 per cent of Hawaiian Airlines, Scandinavian Airlines System controls nine per cent of Continental, and Swissair recently acquired five per cent of Delta, Shane said.

"There's nothing inherently wrong with these acquisitions," Shane said.

Shane said the proposed KLM investment in Northwest has the potential of giving the Dutch carrier, which is partly government owned, a strong say in Northwest affairs.

East bloc struggles with agricultural woes

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — To a Soviet tourist accustomed to buying sugar on ration coupons, or a Romanian surviving for months without proper meat, a Budapest supermarket is close to paradise.

Piles of paprika and heaps of other fruits and vegetables adorn the shelves. Canned goods, Western beverages and attractively packaged foods are freely available — and there are few of the queues or shortages of staples so common in East Europe.

But while Hungary, a traditionally rich agrarian nation, continues to export thousands of tons of produce each year, the farming success story is turning sour. And elsewhere in Eastern Europe, putting a healthy and varied diet on consumers' tables remains a constant government preoccupation.

Hungary provides ready examples of some of the agricultural woes its socialist neighbours also face.

Almost 60 per cent of the machinery on the 1,253 co-operatives and 131 state farms created by forced collectivisation in the 1950s is rusty and outdated.

The workforce is shrinking and growing older. Produce prices paid to farmers are not keeping pace with hikes in the cost of fertilisers and other tools of the trade.

State investment is declining, with farmers seeing none of the extra revenue generated by three rounds of food price increases imposed by a cash-strapped government this year alone.

From 1975 to 1987, industrial prices rose 203 per cent, but the money paid to farmers for their produce went up just 64 per cent.

Robert Burgert, manager of Hungary's most successful state farm, found it more profitable to invest his farm's money in Budapest's infant bond market than in his land at Balbona in western Hungary.

Farmers' anger at their worsening situation boiled over a year ago, when winemakers in Koszoros staged the first agricultural demonstration in memory, demanding change.

With even official statistics showing a 20 per cent decline in agricultural production from 1987 to 1988, and politicians increasingly willing to reform, the winemakers may get their wish.

A surprising report commissioned by the ruling Communist Party recently recommended a wholesale return to easy lease terms and private land ownership in agriculture.

Everywhere in Eastern Europe, the small private farms and plots left intact by communism already account for a vastly disproportionate share of food produced.

In Hungary, private household plots that cover only 5.5 per cent of arable land accounted for 36 per cent of all agricultural production in 1988.

A return to private land ownership also would ease the credit squeeze on farmers, who now cannot use their land as collateral for loans because it has no market

price.

Undoing four decades of communist farming, however, may prove politically difficult if it drives up subsidised food prices even more.

Already, consumers are feeling the crunch.

"My teen-age sons like to drink Coca-Cola," said Zoltan, a Budapest bureaucrat with a salary above the monthly average of 6,500 forints (about \$100). "But this year I had to tell them, 'we just can't afford it.'"

In Yugoslavia, where inflation tops 600 per cent a year, and elsewhere in Eastern Europe, consumers have long grown used to spending large portions of their meagre income for food.

Most of these supplies are available only at small markets where peasants sell produce from their plots.

In Poland, for example, a kilogramme of beef costs 4,000 zlotys (about \$5) — some six per cent of an average monthly wage — on the free market. In state stores, where prices are lower but the standard phrase is "nie ma" (there is none), beef is almost never seen.

In Romania, every spare lei chases food. President Nicolae Ceausescu's drive to pay off foreign debt means that huge amounts of food are exported and his 23 million citizens, inhabiting an area once known as the breadbasket of southern Europe, face chronic shortages.

In many cities, bread is rationed. Butter, cooking oil, cheese or white flour are regularly sold only in hard-currency stores. A kilogramme of coffee fetches up to 1,500 lei (\$150) — half the monthly wage — on the black market.

Urban professionals may rise at dawn and queue all day on a rumour that meat is to appear at a local store. When it does, hundreds of exhausted shoppers turn into angry hordes, screaming at each other in the fight for a scrawny chicken.

Such scenes are unknown in Czechoslovakia and East Germany, where stores are relatively well stocked.

Shop windows in Prague, famous for its hams, display an enviable variety of meats and sausage at affordable prices. But fruit and vegetables are far more scarce. In June, the Czechoslovak state news agency revealed that consumption of vegetables has risen only 8.7 per cent since before World War II and "does not meet the requirements of healthy nutrition."

East Europeans often get around such shortages by growing their own produce. From the Baltic to Belgrade, housewives have hung on to skills in tending, bottling and pickling fruits and vegetables.

The average East European housewife also must manage to feed her family with almost none of the frozen foods that have become commonplace in the West.

Household appliances to prepare food are at a premium.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Banking seminar opens in Amman

AMMAN (Pena) — A six-day seminar on pricing banking services and budgeting opens in Amman Saturday with the participation of 40 bankers from Jordan and the Arab World. The participants will discuss several working papers and will hear lectures about banking budget and cost assessments, according to a statement by Dr. Adnan Al Hindi, secretary-general of the Arab Banking Union which is organising the seminar. Hindi said that such gatherings aim to intensify and back up efforts to update the skills and performance of Arab banking systems and to cope with modern technological trends.

Economy tops Rafsanjani's priorities

NICOSIA (R) — Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, expected to be elected Iran's president this week, said Thursday economic development was the nation's main task in the next decade. "Our main work is in this area because in the 10 years after the revolution we were not able to deal with the people's economic problems because of the war (with Iraq)," he said in a 30-minute speech on television. He listed economic priorities as developing natural gas resources, training technicians and stabilising the rial. "The great difference between the actual and official values of the currency is a source of corruption," he said. Fixing the rial — its real value would entail devaluation, a move opposed by the government in the 10 years since the Islamic revolution. Black market exchange rates have reached up to 20 times the official rate.

Saudi-French bank ups profit by 31%

RIYADH (R) — Al Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi has said net profit rose 31.7 per cent in the first half of 1989 to 60.8 million riyals (\$16.2 million). Total assets also rose 25.8 per cent to 19.7 billion riyals (\$5.25 billion) but provisions were cut to 30 million riyals (\$8 million) from 35.87 million riyals (\$9.6 million) in the first half of 1988. The bank is one of 12 commercial banks in the kingdom and the unaudited results were published in the local press. The bank is 60 per cent owned by Saudi nationals and 40 per cent by Banque Indosuez.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, July 20, 1989		Deutsche mark		299.9		302.9	
Central Bank official rates		Swiss franc		346.6		350.1	
		French franc		88.4		89.3	
		Japanese yen (for 100)		403.0		407.0	
		Dutch guilder		263.8		268.5	
		Swedish crown		88.0		88.9	
		Italian lira (for 100)		41.5		41.9	
		Belgian franc (for 10)		143.2		144.6	
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell					
Pound Sterling	573.0	579.0					
	924.4	933.6					

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	July 17-19	July 1-5
Daily average	JD 2,382,827	JD 920,570
Total volume	JD 7,148,483	JD 4,602,850
Total shares	2,937,538	2,454,888
No. of contracts	3,403	3,245
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 5,006,991 (70.0%)	JD 3,312,333 (72.0%)
Financial	JD 1,812,397 (25.4%)	JD 878,640 (19.1%)
Service	(3.6%)	(6.4%)
Insurance	(1.0%)	(2.5%)
Share price index	127.5	126.2
No. of companies	56	62
Price movement (rise)	28	17
(decline)	16	37
(stable)	12	8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6275/85	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1865/75	Canadian dollar	
	1.8975/85	Deutsche mark	
	2.1405/55	Dutch guilders	
	1.6355/70	Swiss francs	
	39.72/77	Belgian francs	
	6.4350/400	French francs	
	1372/1373	Italian lire	
	141.60/70	Japanese yen	
	6.4675/475	Swedish crowns	
	6.9475/975	Norwegian crowns	
	7.3700/300	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	372.70/373.20	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters.

SYDNEY — The share market closed above the critical 1,600 level as a fall in the Australian dollar caused a gold sector rush. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 6.6 at 1603.0.

TOKYO — Share prices closed sharply higher. Investment trusts conducted index-linked buying programmes and others jumped on the boat. The Nikkei rose 234.56 to 33,899.43.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended lower on end-week profit-taking and market talk that the best bid on a prime government land site was disappointingly low. The Hang Seng fell 47.34 to 2,495.74.

SINGAPORE — Prices were lower across the board on profit-taking after recent sharp gains. The Straits Times Industrial Index lost 3.48 to 1,361.91.

BOMBAY — Prices fell sharply on opposition demands for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's resignation over a controversial guns deal with Bofors of Sweden. Elections must be held before December.

FRANKFURT — The market hit new 1989 highs for the fourth time this week and dealers said the mood was still strongly bullish. The Real-Time 30-Share Dax rose 4.58 to 1,555.40.

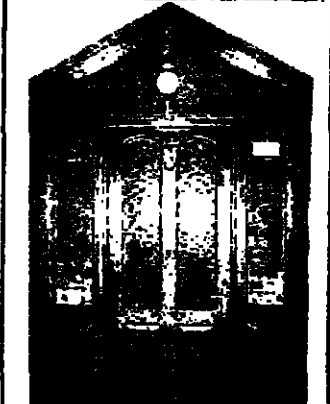
ZURICH — The market closed slightly firmer despite Thursday declines on Wall Street and in the dollar. The All-Share Swiss Index rose 3.6 to 1,137.8.

PARIS — Shares were easier on profit-taking at the end of the July account. The 50-share bourse indicator was down by 0.03 per cent.

LONDON — Prices were easier in lagging trade and dealers said the market was consolidating after recent gains. At 1447 GMT the FTSE index was 11.4 lower at 2,280.9.

NEW YORK — Blue chips were firm but traders said investors were hesitant ahead of expiry of major market index stock options and futures. The Dow was up three at 2,578.

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